

Jobs breaks from medical leave to unveil iPad 2

See Aruba Today Technology page B7



INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS



Tennis player Serena Williams arrives at the 2011 Elton John Academy Award viewing party in West Hollywood, Calif. on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011
See Aruba Today Sports

WORLD NEWS



Reports that the last WWI vet died earlier this week were wrong. The Last WWI combatant to mark 110th birthday today. A/15

Appealing to hate



Shirley Phelps-Roper, of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, pickets the funeral of Dr. George R. Tiller on June 6, 2009 in Wichita, Kansas. In a case that arose from a protest at the funeral of a Marine who had died in Iraq, where members of the church carried signs bearing messages like "America is Doomed" and "God Hates Fags," the Supreme Court ruled in an 8-1 decision on March 2, 2011 that the First Amendment protects hateful protests at military funerals.
(Steve Hebert/The New York Times)



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Supreme Court rules the First Amendment protects hate

First Amendment protects hateful Protests



By ADAM LIPTAK

New York Times

WASHINGTON – The First Amendment protects hateful protests at military funerals, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday in an 8-1 decision. “Speech is powerful,” Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority. “It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and – as it did here – inflict great pain.”

But under the First Amendment, he went on, “we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker.” Instead, the national commitment to free speech, he said, requires protection of “even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate.”

The decision, from which Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented, was the latest in a series of muscular First Amendment rulings from the Roberts court. Last year, the court struck down laws limiting speech about politics and making it a crime to distribute depictions of cruelty to animals. In the current term’s other major First Amendment case, the court seems likely, based on the justices’ questioning, to strike down a law banning the sale of violent video games to minors.

Only the interest in national security has in the recent run of decisions been ruled substantial enough to overcome free-speech interests.

Roberts used sweeping language culled from the First Amendment canon of foundational decisions in setting out the central place that free speech plays in the constitutional structure.

“Debate on public issues should be robust, uninhibited and wide-open,” he wrote,

because “speech on public issues occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values.”

The case decided Wednesday arose from a protest at the funeral of a Marine who had

died in Iraq, Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder. As they had at hundreds of other funerals, members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., appeared with signs bearing messages like “Amer-

ica is Doomed” and “God Hates Fags.”

The church contends that God is punishing the United States for its tolerance of homosexuality.

The father of the fallen Ma-

rine, Albert Snyder, sued the protesters for, among other things, the intentional infliction of emotional distress and won a substantial jury award that was later overturned by an appeals court. □

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HMS warns of longer airport waits with budget cuts

WASHINGTON – Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned that travelers could face longer waits to get through airport security if Republican-proposed budget cuts are adopted.

The fiscal 2011 budget plan passed by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives does not include President Barack Obama's request for more funds for transportation security officers, full-body scanners and other explosive detection equipment in fiscal 2011.

"It will probably result in increases in wait times for passengers in the air environment and those could be significant," she told a Senate appropriations subcommittee, referring to the inability to buy more equipment and hire more security screeners.

"These are necessary because our adversaries, al Qaeda and al Qaeda-related, continue to seek aviation as a target and continue to target it by means

other than something that would be picked up only by a magnetometer," Napolitano said.

The government has been operating under temporary spending measures for the 2011 fiscal budget, which ends September 30, and Republicans who control the House of Representatives have proposed wide-ranging cuts, including for homeland security. DHS had hoped to buy 500 full-body scanners but will only be able to purchase about 250 and only half the number of explosive detection machines, 415 of 811, it sought to acquire this fiscal year, according to Napolitano. A Republican congressional aide disputed potential airport delays, saying that the budget proposal was equivalent to the fiscal 2010 budget and questioned DHS and TSA plans to buy the equipment and hire associated personnel this year. "It is the same funding level as last year and therefore makes

sense that it would have little effect on wait times," the aide said, declining to be further identified.

The funding bill has passed the House but Democrats who control the Senate have said that they will not bring it up for a vote because it includes steep cuts in security and social programs and would result in large job losses.

DHS and TSA have tried to accelerate the purchase of such machines after numerous attempted attacks on the U.S. aviation system, including the 2009 Christmas Day attempt in which a Nigerian man is accused of trying to blow up a transatlantic flight with a bomb hidden in his underwear.

The Yemeni affiliate of al Qaeda, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, has claimed responsibility for that plot as well as an attempt to detonate bombs packed in toner cartridges that were shipped via express mail carriers. □



In California

Woman sues store after slipping on banana peel

Fontana, CA – A banana peel, the torment of many a cartoon character, has allegedly become the real-life downfall of a woman in California.

Ida Valentine, 58, is suing the 99 Cents Only store where she slipped on one last April.

She said that she suffered a herniated disk and tissue damage, spent \$9,000 on medical bills and is seeking an unspecified amount in damages.

Mikolaj said the 99 Cents Only store in Fontana, California, refused a proposed settlement of \$44,000. Executives from the company, a deep-discount retailer with hundreds of stores

in western states, were not immediately available for comment.

The image in popular culture of an unwary pedestrian tripping head over heels on a banana peel stems from the late 19th century, when bananas were a popular street food in American cities and the press portrayed them as a public nuisance.

In 1879, Harper's Weekly groused that "whosoever throws banana skins on the sidewalk does a great unkindness to the public, and is quite likely to be responsible for a broken limb." □

NY City police

Pension fund OKs hedge fund stake

NEW YORK – The board of New York City's police pension fund has approved the first investment in a hedge fund by any of the city's pension funds, the city comptroller said on Wednesday. Comptroller John Liu said the hedge fund investment will diversify the police pension fund's assets. "We expect to initiate a hedge fund-of-funds

program, which is to be followed by a series of direct investments in hedge funds," he said in a statement. The Permal Group was chosen at a March 1 board meeting, but its selection still must be finalized. According to its web site, the Permal Group is an alternative asset management firm, which was established in 1973 and has 200

employees. New York City's five pension funds have an unfunded liability estimated at \$76 billion to \$122 billion, which puts more pressure on its investment managers. New York City Chief Investment Officer Larry Schloss said that adding hedge fund stakes builds on the commitments of the comptroller and the Board of "protecting pensioners and taxpayers." □



Nickolas Galiatsatos put mice in competitor's parlors to hurt their businesses.

PHILADELPHIA – The owner of a suburban Philadelphia pizza shop has been arraigned on charges he schemed to plant live mice in competing pizza parlors in hope of putting them out of business. Nickolas Galiatsatos, owner

of Nina's Bella Pizzeria in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, is accused of putting bags of mice at nearby competitors on Monday afternoon, according to Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood. The owner of Verona Pizza

In Philadelphia

Pizza maker charged with using mice against competition

watched Galiatsatos go into his restroom carrying a bag but emerge empty-handed, and alerted two patrol officers who were in the restaurant, Chitwood said.

The officers found a bag of mice and footprints on a toilet seat, suggesting someone had been trying to reach the ceiling tiles, he said.

The officers then found Gali-

atsatos near another pizza place, Uncle Nick's, where he was seen putting something in a trash can.

There, police found a bag containing five mice, Chitwood said.

"This guy planted them to put these guys out of business," Chitwood said. "I've been at this for 47 years, and I've never seen mice used as a

criminal tool."

Galiatsatos claimed his shop had been infested with mice, and he blamed his competitors for the problem, he said. Chitwood said that Galiatsatos told police he bought the mice at a pet shop for \$10.

He faces misdemeanor charges of cruelty to animals, criminal mischief, harassment and disorderly conduct. □

Barbour says

Obama cheers for higher gas prices

WASHINGTON — Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a potential presidential contender, accused the Obama administration of favoring a run-up in gas prices to prod consumers to buy more fuel-efficient cars.

But the recent rise in gasoline prices has been primarily driven by unrest in the Middle East, particularly Libya, where protests have diminished crude oil production.

Barbour cited 2008 comments from Steven Chu, now President Barack Obama's energy secretary, that a gradual increase in gasoline taxes could coax consumers into dumping their gas-guzzlers and finding homes closer to where they work. Chu, then a Nobel Prize-winning professor, argued that higher costs per gallon could force investments in alternative fuels and spur cleaner energy sources. "This administration's policies have been designed to drive up the cost of energy in the name of reducing pollution, in the name of making very expensive alternative fuels more economically competitive," Barbour said during a U.S. Chamber of Commerce breakfast across the street from the White House. In 2008, while the head of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, Chu told The Wall Street Journal that energy prices were the lynchpin to an energy overhaul.

"Somehow we have to figure out how to boost the price of gasoline



Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour

to the levels in Europe," Chu said in September 2008.

The administration has boosted fuel economy and placed the first-ever greenhouse gas standards on vehicles in an effort to reduce the pollution blamed for global warming and wean the country off foreign supplies of oil. Those regulations will result in less gasoline being used, but should have little to no effect on gasoline prices.

Others have accused the administration of driving up prices at the pump by placing certain areas of the country off limits to oil production, and placing a moratorium on drilling in the deep-

water Gulf of Mexico after the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. Drilling in the Gulf a major source of U.S. production has been slow to restart. The first permit for a deepwater well was issued just this week.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar dismissed the notion that changes in oil production in the U.S. would increase the price of oil.

"What we do here in terms of production is not going to affect the price of oil, which is set on the world market," Salazar told a Senate energy panel examining his department's budget. □



Mexican President Felipe Calderón shakes hands with President Obama

Obama's Mexican Standoff

NEW YORK — As Mexico's president visits Washington, tensions are flaring south of the border over drug violence and the economy and much of the rage is directed at the U.S. John M. Ackerman on how Obama can defuse the crisis.

Political stability is at risk not only in the Middle East, but also south of the U.S. border. The Mexican people are getting increasingly frustrated with the failure of President Felipe Calderón to win the "drug war" and resolve their basic needs. They could soon take matters into their own hands. When Calderón visits Washington and Thursday, President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner should use the opportunity to announce concrete new measures in support of the Mexican people. Otherwise, the emerging discontent could lead to repudiation not just of Calderón but also of the entire U.S. political establishment.

Surprisingly, Mexico is one of the most "anti-American" countries in the world. A recent global survey conducted by the BBC revealed that only 13 percent of the population has a "mainly positive" view of the U.S.'s worldwide influence, while 49 percent has a "mainly negative" one. Of the 28 countries surveyed, only Pakistan and Turkey have stronger anti-American sentiment. Both the Egyptians and the Chinese are far more positive than the Mexicans.

To an extent, these perceptions are linked to history and geography. Mexico lost a third of its territory to the U.S. during the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. And U.S. troops occupied Mexican territory at two crucial moments during the Mexican revolution of 1910-17. But the negative views of the U.S. derive principally from what's happening now. Hundreds of migrants die trying to cross the border each year. Incidents of U.S. border agents shooting or killing Mexicans, often for no apparent reason, are not uncommon. The number of deportations from the U.S. has risen sharply in recent years, and the Obama administration has made absolutely no progress on immigration reform.

The solution does not lie in an escalation of the drug war but in concrete measures that would demonstrate U.S. willingness to help reduce violence and resolve social ills.

The Mexican population is also acutely aware that the consumption of illegal drugs and the sale of assault weapons in the U.S. are among the chief causes of the 35,000 execution-type murders in Mexico over the past four years, 15,000 in 2010 alone. □

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Execution drug ample, but has certain issues



ATLANTA — On paper, the drug that states are increasingly counting on to replace a sedative used in executions shares several drawbacks with the one that's no longer readily available.

Both were intended for other uses. Each was or is made by only one company in the U.S. And the substitute drug will have to run the same legal gauntlet that the first drug survived. There is one key difference, however: Experts say there is plenty of the replacement, pentobarbital, and it's not likely the manufacturer will abruptly halt production and touch off the kind of supply crisis that struck the first drug's maker.

There already was a shortage of sodium thiopental before its manufacturer, Hospira Inc., said in January it

would no longer make the drug, sending most of the 35 death penalty states scrambling for an alternative. The Lake Forest, Ill.-based company quit production when lawmakers in Italy, home of the company's new factory, demanded assurances that the substance would not be used in executions. □

In California

Woman survives 35-mile ride

On hood of minivan

MANTECA, Calif. — A California man remains behind bars four days after driving 35 miles on a freeway with his wife clinging to a windshield wiper blade on the hood of their minivan, police said.

Christopher Michael Carroll, 36, was being held without bail at the San Joaquin County Jail on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping and domestic assault, according to sheriff's department records. Carroll got into the family's minivan around 12:30 a.m. Saturday after he and his wife had an argument at their Manteca home, local police said.

"She kind of goes with the van to try to stop him, gets up on the hood and is hanging on to the wiper blade," said police spokesman Rex Osborn. "She obviously didn't think he would keep driving."

Carroll sped through Man-



Christopher Michael Carroll, 36, was being held without bail at the San Joaquin County Jail on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping and domestic assault.

teca, got on a freeway and didn't pull over until he reached Pleasanton, about 35 miles away, Osborn said.

Two witnesses called 911 from the road to report it, Osborn said. One of the callers followed Carroll all the way to Pleasanton and told police

his speed reached 100 miles per hour. Eventually, Carroll slowed down the vehicle and his wife "was able to roll off," Osborn said. The driver following the vehicle transported the woman to a nearby hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia. Carroll returned home, where police arrested him a short time later, Osborn said. He is scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

The wild ride happened several days after Carroll was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance, Osborn said. Police received a phone call on Feb. 23 from a witness who reported that Carroll had climbed into a 6-foot-deep trash bin in Manteca and was threatening to drown himself in the five inches of water that had collected at the bottom, Osborn said. □

Senate sends Obama stopgap GOP spending bill

WASHINGTON — The Senate sent President Barack Obama a Republican-drafted stopgap funding bill that trims \$4 billion from the budget, completing hastily processed legislation designed to keep partisan divisions from forcing a government shutdown.

Moments later, Obama called on congressional leader to

meet with top administration figures including Vice President Joe Biden to discuss a longer-term measure to fund the government through Sept. 30.

"We can find common ground on a budget that makes sure we are living within our means," Obama said. "This agreement should be bipartisan, it should be free of any party's social or

political agenda, and it should be reached without delay."

Congressional Republicans said it's up to Democrats to offer an alternative to carry into the talks. They have yet to produce one to respond to a \$1.2 trillion omnibus spending measure that passed the House last month.

"The House position is perfectly clear. We cut \$100

billion off the president's request for this fiscal year," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "We have no clue where our colleagues on the Senate side are."

The Senate cleared the temporary measure by an overwhelming 91-9 vote that gives the GOP an early but modest victory in its drive to rein in government. □

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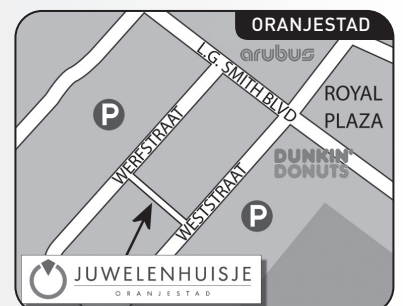
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In Philadelphia

Abortion doc to face death sentence



Dr. Kermit Gosnell

PHILADELPHIA — Prosecutors have notified a Philadelphia doctor charged with killing a patient and seven babies at his abortion clinic that they intend to pursue the death penalty against him. Dr. Kermit Gosnell, 70, ran a filthy West Philadelphia medical practice that served as a pill mill by day and an abortion mill by night, a grand jury concluded in January after a two-year investigation. The multiple deaths and tender age of the babies allegedly killed with scissors after being born alive are the aggravating circumstances that warrant the death penalty for Gosnell, Assistant District Attorney Joanne Pescatore said. Defense lawyers have suggested that Gosnell, his wife and eight other defendants who worked at the neighborhood clinic treated poor women when no one else would. Gosnell's lawyer, Jack McMa-

hon, questioned the death-penalty decision. Gosnell would die of old age before a death sentence would ever be carried out, he said. "Dr. Gosnell is never going to get the death penalty," McMahon said after a brief court hearing. "You have a 70-year-old man, and it makes the case three times as long and as costly." Gosnell is being held without bail on eight counts of murder, and was not brought to court for the formal arraignment. The next hearing in the case is set for March 30. Gosnell made millions over the years from the clinic, and together with his wife owns numerous properties, prosecutors say. A judge involved in a pending wrongful death lawsuit has frozen his assets to protect the plaintiffs, the family of a 41-year-old refugee who died of a drug overdose at the clinic in 2009. □

Judge lends accused gangster tie for trial

NEW YORK — An accused gangster nicknamed "Vinny Gorgeous" became even more dapper on Tuesday when the judge in his murder trial lent him a tie after jailers had refused him one. Vincent Basciano is charged with murder and racketeering, crimes he allegedly committed on behalf of the Bonanno crime family in 2004, according to court documents. Basciano, known for his sartorial style, appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court for jury selection without a tie. His discomfort was quickly noted by Judge Nicholas Garaufis, who lent him his own tie, said defense attorney George Goltzer. The judge had previously allowed Basciano's family to supply him with a suit, socks and shoes for the trial, but a jail employee apparently read the order too literally and refused to permit a tie, Goltzer said. "It's much ado about nothing now," Goltzer said. "The jail perhaps didn't accept ties but it's been resolved now. It was a simple misunderstanding with the parties that were involved." He said the judge even suggested Basciano hold onto the tie until the end of the trial. □

Researchers and government declared eastern cougar extinct



The eastern cougar subspecies has probably been extinct since the 1930s.

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — The "ghost cat" is just that. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared the eastern cougar to be extinct, confirming a widely held belief among wildlife biologists that native populations of the big cat were wiped out by man a century ago. After a lengthy review, federal officials concluded there are no breeding populations of cougars also known as pumas, panthers, mountain lions and catamounts in the eastern United States. Researchers believe the eastern cougar subspecies has probably been extinct since the 1930s declaration paves the way for the eastern cougar to be removed from the endangered species list, where it was placed in 1973. The agency's decision to declare the eastern cougar extinct does not affect the status of the Florida panther, another endangered wildcat. Some cougar enthusiasts have long insisted there's a small breeding population of eastern cougars, saying the secretive cats have simply eluded detection hence the "ghost cat" moniker. The wildlife service said it confirmed 108 sightings between 1900 and 2010, but that these animals either escaped or were

released from captivity, or migrated from western states to the Midwest. "The Fish and Wildlife Service fully believes that some people have seen cougars, and that was an important part of the review that we did," said Mark McCollough, a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who led the eastern cougar review. "We went on to evaluate where these animals would be coming from." A breeding population of eastern cougars would almost certainly have left evidence of its existence, he said. Cats would have been hit by cars or caught in traps, left tracks in the snow or turned up on any of the hundreds of thousands of trail cameras that dot Eastern forests. The private Eastern Cougar Foundation, for example, spent a decade looking for evidence. Finding none, it changed its name to the Cougar Rewilding Foundation last year and shifted its focus from confirming sightings to advocating for the restoration of the big cat to its pre-colonial habitat. The wildlife service said it has no authority under the Endangered Species Act to reintroduce the mountain lion to the East. Once widely dispersed through-

out the eastern United States, the mountain lion was all but wiped out by the turn of the last century. Cougars were killed in vast numbers, and states even held bounties. A nearly catastrophic decline in white-tailed deer the main prey of mountain lions also contributed to the species' extirpation. McCollough said the last wild cougar was believed to have been killed in Maine in 1938. "If there were cougars surviving in the wild, or had somehow survived since European contact, there would be a lot of sign of those animals, a lot of evidence they are present," McCollough said. The wildlife service treated the eastern cougar as a distinct subspecies, even though some biologists now believe it is genetically the same as its western brethren, which is increasing in number and extending its range. Some experts believe that mountain lions will eventually make their way back East. The loss of a top-level predator like the cougar has had ecological consequences, including an explosion in the deer population and a corresponding decline in the health of Eastern forests. □

Student calls 911

Teacher rattles table in class

ATHERTON, Calif. — A California school teacher was placed on paid administrative leave after he rattled a table to get the attention of his math students, startling an eighth-grade girl who used her cell phone to call police. Atherton police Sgt. Tim Lynch tells the Palo Alto Daily News that officers went to Selby Lane School Tuesday afternoon because of reports a teacher was causing a disturbance.

Officers found a calm teacher with class in session. The sergeant says the teacher's table-rattling startled a student and she used her cell phone to call 911. He says other students in the class weren't bothered by the teacher's actions.

Redwood City School District deputy superintendent John Baker says the teacher was placed on leave because there was a police response. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

At Sopranos Abbott is back



PALM BEACH - March is the time to visit the cocktail bar as one can expect loads of fun with the fantastic piano man Jeff Abbott from Chicago. High energy, American pop/rock piano bar entertainer Jeff Abbott has been performing in Norway for several years and has had several return engagements at the Caribbean's premier piano bars. His aggressive performance style and dynamic personality make him a crowd favorite wherever he performs. Jeff's command of the keyboard and unique use of the keytar has earned him a unique niche on the international piano bar circuit.

Sopranos, the theme bar with a twist in the great Arawak Garden across from the Radisson Resort, is ready for a super month. This man knows how to play, how to sing and how to make the ambiance electrifying. Requests are welcome and Jeff will play them as you have never heard them before. Some guests have been coming to Sopranos every night of the week so as not to miss a single moment of the entertainment. See whether we are right!

Sopranos has a daily happy hour, which is from 5 - 8 pm with special prices for selected beers and cocktails. □

North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN)

ISA students go to Washington, D.C.

ORANJESTAD - Students of the International School of Aruba had the honor of attending and taking part in the North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN) event held in Washington, D.C.

Abav Sneek Smith, Bram van der Scheer, Roger Maduro, Sebastian van der Sloot and Jurgen van Schaijk, were accompanied by their Social Studies teacher, Mr. Mark Quirsfeld, to gain a more in-depth perspective on global issues, delegation methods, giving them an experience that they will remember for years to come.

Students were assigned a specific country to research (Zambia) and were given highly important topics for discussion; they were to present their position papers and resolutions for approval. Discussion topics included subjects such as Juvenile Imprisonment, Human Traffick-



The International School of Aruba High school students taking part in the North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN) event held in Washington, D.C. last week.

ing, Child Soldiers, Conflict Resources, and Environment. They had the opportunity to further de-

velop their public-speaking, debate and presentation skills. The event not only expanded their viewpoint about their

subject of study, but they made friends with students from other countries all over the world. □

The Casino at the Radisson pays out cash



PALM BEACH -Island visitor Shelli King, staying at the Occidental Grand cashed a giant jackpot of \$1,700 when she dropped in for some slot play, visiting the Casino at the

Radisson. Slot Tournament players Shirley Seidel, Carmen Koolman & Andres Flanegin, shared the \$600 prize-money, as the three top tournament winners, while Ludwina Dykhoff won an



iPod Nano, Theodor Gei received a gift certificate for Sunday Brunch for two at the famed Sunset Grill Restaurant, and Glenda Werleman was presented with a gift certificate for dinner for

two at Laguna Restaurant. The Casino at the Radisson continues to offer bingo twice a week, on Saturday & Sunday at 1 pm, and orchestrates a fun weekly program of tournaments and promotions. □

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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PwC celebrates Carnival in style



ORANJESTAD — Recently, PwC held its annual Carnival Bash, designed to infect employees and partners with the much-enjoyed temporary condition known as Carnival Fever. Entertainment was provided by DJ Eldrick, who delighted the crowd with popular Carnival tunes such as Zoya Zoya and Waya Waya Down Dee Road.

The party took off over cocktails and dancing and got down to the traditional Prins, Pancho, and Queen Election. PAC (PwC Activities Committee) thanked Prins Edmar, Pancho Edsel, and Queen Shanine for representing PwC as graciously as

they did in 2010, for the entire Carnival 56 season.

As the time to retire their crowns has come, the baha e corona ceremony was short and sweet. Outgoing Prins Edmar and Pancho Edsel Lopez thanked everybody for their support during the year and transferred their beautiful coronas to the newly elected Prins Rafeli Croes and Pancho Elton Tromp.

The new Prins and Pancho, did not even have a minute to enjoy their new status, as they were immediately called for duty, escorting the Queen Election finalists to the stage. The finalists were Leidy Bedoya, Ana Alvarez, Ra-

chel Maduro and Emily Maduro who had to dance to compete for the coveted PwC Queen crown. After the moving speech given by outgoing PwC queen Shannine Oduber, the 2010 Carnival Queen Rachel Maduro was crowned by partner Edsel Lopez.

To conclude the evening, the new PwC Activities committee was introduced announcing Giardino Marchena, Herrick Henriquez, Julieta van der Biezen and Geert Weber as the next generation of social-organizers. Thank you outgoing PAC for a year of wonderful events, says Gregory A.A. Croeze, PwC, Assistant Manager, and the motor behind many fun gatherings. □



Mon Plaisir Elementary School 6th graders visits Aruba Marriott

PALM BEACH – On Friday February 25th over forty students of the Mon Plaisir elementary school visited the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino for a site inspection. The sixth graders are preparing for high school after the summer and focusing on their future career paths. With that mindset the Aruba Marriott was pleased to assist with a tour of the hotel and share their information about the different job opportunities. The Aruba Marriott Human Resource and Sales & Marketing Departments showed the students the different departments and areas in the hotel such as Housekeeping, Food & Beverage outlets, Loss Prevention, Kitchen, Sales and Events. They showed great enthusiasm during the tour and asked many intelligent questions about the different departments and the Marriott brand. After the tour the students gathered in La Vista Restau-



rant for cookies and refreshments followed by a short presentation by several managers including Hotel Manager Louella Brezovar and Housekeeping Manager Rhona Williams. The team shared their expertise and knowledge about the hotel and their careers to inspire the young talents. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino wishes the Mon Plaisir sixth graders the best of luck and looks for-



ward to welcome them in the future to the Marriott family. Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large,

private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant,

while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

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In new book

Pope exonerates Jews for Jesus' death

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI has made a sweeping exoneration of the Jewish people for the death of Jesus Christ, tackling one of the most controversial issues in Christianity in a new book.

In "Jesus of Nazareth-Part II" excerpts released Benedict explains biblically and theologically why there is no basis in Scripture for the argument that the Jewish people as a whole were responsible for Jesus' death.

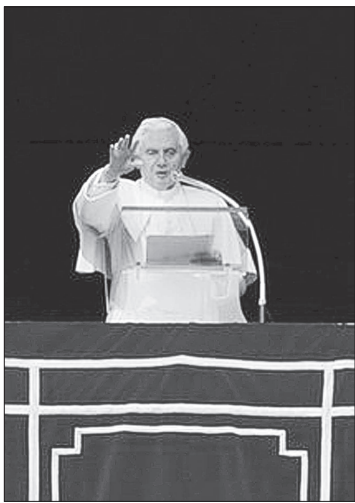
Interpretations to the contrary have been used for centuries to justify the persecution of Jews.

While the Catholic Church has for five decades taught that Jews weren't collectively responsible, Jewish scholars said the argument laid out by the German-born pontiff, who has had his share of mishaps with Jews, was a landmark statement from a pope that would help fight anti-Semitism today.

"Holocaust survivors know only too well how the centuries-long charge of 'Christ killer' against the Jews created a poisonous climate of hate that was the foundation of anti-Semitic persecution whose ultimate expression was realized in the Holocaust," said Elan Steinberg of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and their Descendants.

The pope's book, he said, not only confirms church teaching refuting the deicide charge "but seals it for a new generation of Catholics." The Catholic Church issued its most authoritative teaching on the issue in its 1965 Second Vatican Council document "Nostra Aetate," which revolutionized the church's relations with Jews by saying Christ's death could not be attributed to Jews as a whole at the time or today.

Benedict comes to the same conclusion, but he explains how with a thorough, Gospel-by-Gospel analysis that leaves little doubt that he deeply and personally believes it to be the case: That only a few Temple leaders and a small group of supporters were primarily responsible for Christ's crucifixion. The book is the second installment to Benedict's 2007 "Jesus of Nazareth," his first book as pope, which offered a very personal meditation on the early years of Christ's life and teachings. This second book, set to be released March 10, concerns the final part of Christ's life, his death and resurrection. The Vatican's publishers



Pope Benedict XVI.

provided a few excerpts.

In the book, Benedict re-enacts Jesus' final hours, including his death sentence for blasphemy, then analyzes each Gospel account to explain why Jews as a whole cannot be blamed for it. Rather, Benedict concludes, it was the "Temple aristocracy" and a few supporters of the figure Barabbas who were responsible. "How could the whole people have been present at this moment to clamor for Jesus' death?" Benedict asks.

He deconstructs one particular biblical account which has the crowd saying, "His blood be on us and on our children" a phrase frequently cited as evidence of the collective guilt Jews bore and the curse that they carried as a result.

The phrase, from the Gospel of Matthew, has been so incendiary that director Mel Gibson was reportedly forced to drop it from the subtitles of his 2004 film "The Passion of the Christ," although it remained in the spoken Aramaic.

But Benedict said Jesus' death wasn't about punishment, but rather salvation. Jesus' blood, he said, "does not cry out for vengeance and punishment, it brings reconciliation. It is not poured out against anyone; it is poured out for many, for all."

Benedict, who was forced to join the Hitler Youth as a child in Nazi Germany, has made improving relations with Jews a priority of his pontificate. He has visited the

Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Poland and Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

But he also has had a few missteps that have drawn the ire of Jewish groups, most notably when in 2009 he lifted the excommunication of a traditionalist Catholic bishop who had denied the extent of the Holocaust by saying no Jews were gassed during World War II. Benedict has said that had he known Bishop Richard Williamson's views about Jews he never would have lifted the excommunication, which was imposed in 1988 because Williamson was consecrated without papal consent. Williamson is a member of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, which has rejected many Vatican II teachings, including the outreach to Jews contained in Nostra Aetate.

Separately, Jewish groups have been outraged that Benedict is moving Pope Pius XII closer to beatification, the first main hurdle to possible sainthood. Some Jews and historians have argued the World War II-era pope should have done more to prevent the Holocaust.

The Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit who writes frequently about spirituality, said the pope's new book was a "ringing reaffirmation" of Nostra Aetate, which was passed during the Second Vatican Council, with the pope putting his "personal stamp on it in a way that's irrefutable." "A Vatican Council is the highest teaching authority of the church," Martin said. "Now that you have the pope's reflections underlining it, I don't know how much more authoritative you can get."

Rabbi David Rosen, head of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee and a leader of Vatican-Jewish dialogue, said the pope's book may make a bigger, more lasting mark than Nostra Aetate because the faithful tend to read Scripture and commentary more than church documents, particularly old church documents. □

Kidnapped family unharmed Pirated Danish yacht anchors near Somalia



Pirate by the name of Muse Abdi said, we aren't criminals but "coast guards" trying to scare off international trawlers fishing Somalia's waters.

NAIROBI, Kenya — A Danish family kidnapped by pirates has reached Somalia's coastline, officials and a pirate said likely meaning a long hostage ordeal for the couple and their three teenage children who were abducted while yachting around the world.

The family has been moved to a larger ship, and none of the hostages has been harmed, a pirate said.

A Somali pirate previously warned that if any attempt was made to rescue them, they would meet the same fate as the four American yachters slain by their pirate captors last week. Any chance of a quick rescue seemed to disappear.

Later the Danish government said it had established contact with the pirates and their hostages.

"They are doing well under the circumstances," the Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement. It said a professional security firm was handling negotiations with the pirates, declining to give more details, citing concern for the hostages and their relatives. The statement did not mention anything about a ransom.

The sailboat being piloted by Jan Quist Johansen, his wife

and their three children, ages 12 to 16, anchored near the coastal village of Hafun late Tuesday, said Yusuf Abdullahi Sanyare, the commissioner of Hafun, which lies on Somalia's northern tip, in a region known as Puntland.

Abdiaziz Mohamud Yusuf, the spokesman for a community group called the Puntland Peacemakers, told The Associated Press that the family has been taken on land.

However, a Somali pirate who gave his name as Muse Abdi said the family was transferred to another, larger pirated ship. He said the family has not been harmed.

"They are safe. They were just transferred from the boat to the big ship," said Abdi, who has provided reliable information in the past.

"They have been added to other nationals in another ship to avoid any possible attack."

Denmark says it has established contact with the pirates who captured a Danish yacht in the Indian Ocean and with the Danish family that was taken hostage.

Two adult Danish crew members were also seized in the attack last Thursday on the Johansens' 43-foot sailboat. □

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Can England Handle the Royal Wedding?



Prince William and Kate Middleton

There are many direct costs that England will have to bear for the April 29 wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the largest of which is increased security and police forces. One cost that will outweigh all others and one that is often forgotten in the frenzy of royal wedding hysteria is the cost to the economy.

At first blush, it appears the royal wedding will be a boon to businesses in increased sales of memorabilia and collectibles. It will also benefit pubs, hotels and London tourist spots as the city will be swarming with well-wishers. According to The Telegraph, this boost to local revenues is estimated at 1 billion pounds sterling.

On the other side of the coin, the royal wedding will have a significant drain on businesses throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Parliament declared April 29 an additional bank holiday throughout the United Kingdom. While employers are not legislated to give employees the day off on bank holidays, those whose policies do so will be out-of-pocket by a day's wages for all of their staff. Most essential service workers including police, fire and ambulance workers will receive overtime pay for working on that day.

An even greater concern for worker productivity and business operations around the date of the wedding is its timing. The wedding holiday creates three long weekends in a row for workers, and employers are concerned many workers will simply call in sick or take holidays during that time. The weekend before the wedding is Easter weekend and most employees have Monday off. This leaves only a three-day work week before the wedding. The next week contains the May Day banking holiday on May 2. Even workers who do not take extra time off around the wedding will lose productivity because of the extra work burden caused by reductions in staff that week.

The hit to the English economy comes at a difficult time. The jobless rate and inflation are continuing to rise as the country struggles with rising oil and food prices and a shrinking GDP. □

Education programs lack intellect

Weak students end up as teachers

New York – A few days ago, I ran into a student whom I hadn't seen since the first day of class. With a slightly embarrassed smile, he told me that he had dropped my course.

Alas, he's right. A "gut" is an easy course, and ed school courses are guts, for the most part. That's also the part we omit from our debate on teacher preparation, which focuses largely on the "skills" that future instructors need and pays little attention to their intellectual development.

Consider the recent dust-up over U.S. News and World Report's plan to assign A through F grades to all 1,400 teaching colleges in America. Partnering with the National Council on Teacher Quality, the magazine announced that it would evaluate ed schools on 17 different standards including student teaching, instruction about reading methods, and preparation for working with second-language English learners.

The impending evaluation sparked outrage in education schools, where over 35 deans, presidents, and directors signed a letter of protest to the magazine. The methodology of the U.S. News study was flawed, the ed school leaders said, because it lacked clear criteria for its standards as well as reliable ways to judge whether ed schools have met them. Worst of all, critics said, the evaluation didn't assess how well people taught after completing their degrees.

A few days later, U.S. News and World Report shot back with a memo that detailed its grading criteria. It also pledged to build in so-called "value-added" approaches, which use student



Ed school courses are too easy.

test scores to evaluate teachers' effectiveness.

The elephant in the room, but nobody in this debate made any mention of the great elephant in the room: Ed school courses are too easy. No matter what we call these classes or what teaching skills they transmit they don't challenge students' intellects as much as other courses do.

And now we have the data to prove it. According to "Academically Adrift," a new book by my New York University colleague Richard Arum and the University of Virginia's Josipa Roksa, just 45 percent of students in education and social work reported taking a course in the previous semester requiring more than 20 pages of writing, while 61 percent took a class with more than 40 pages of reading per week. By comparison, 68 percent of social science and humanities students took a class with 20 pages of writing, and 88 percent had a class with 40 pages of weekly reading.

So it shouldn't surprise us those students in education and social work reported studying less, too: 10.6 hours per week, as opposed

to 12.4 hours in the social sciences and the humanities. The hardest workers are science and math majors, who study 14.7 hours a week.

Nor should we be surprised that education students show significantly lower gains than these other groups during their undergraduate careers on the College Learning Assessment (CLA), an essay-only test measuring complex reasoning and written expression. As ed schools should be the first to acknowledge, the only way to cultivate these higher-order skills is to practice them. And our students appear to do that less than most other undergraduates.

Teaching skills isn't enough. Instead, as the U.S. News and World Report controversy illustrates, we emphasize the practical skills they will need in their own classrooms. How do you write a lesson plan? How do you teach long division? And how can you manage 25 or 30 rambunctious young minds, all demanding your immediate attention?

That's all fine and good, but it isn't enough. □

Why I Didn't Pay Off My Mortgage Before Retirement

I have a confession to make. I retired with a mortgage. Most retirement planning professionals say this is a big no-no. I'm not so sure.

I'm not going to try to convince you that the tax deduction makes it worthwhile, or that your money is more wisely invested in the stock market. I will tell you that cash in your bank account will put food on the table, and that equity in your home won't pay the electricity bill. But that's not the reason I haven't paid off my mortgage. It's because of inflation. Thirty years ago, a large pizza cost \$6, a pound of ground beef was \$1.51, and a bottle of whiskey ran you \$5.99. Today the pizza will set you back \$10.30, the homemade burgers, \$2.27, and it will cost you \$12.99 to drown your sorrows in that bottle of whiskey. And yet, after adjusting for inflation, each of these items is actually cheaper now than each was back then.

To put this all in perspective, the average household income was \$17,710 in 1980. By 2009 it had nearly tripled to \$49,777. We don't notice the 30-year creep in prices all that much because we continue to earn inflated dollars as

well. That means we can afford the \$172,600 price tag of the average home in 2010, even though the average home was only \$64,200 three decades ago.

Inflation has been mild the last couple of years. Most experts expect that to change in the not-too-distant future, and some fear that when inflation does come back it won't creep but sprint. Inflation erodes the purchasing power of a dollar. If you have \$100,000 in the bank today, an annual inflation rate of 3.5 percent would effectively snatch about \$30,000 over ten years. Yes, you'd still have \$100,000 in the bank a decade later, but it would only buy you what \$70,000 buys you today. That's how inflation hurts.

Inflation actually helps you, though, when it comes to debt. A mortgage enables you to lock in today's home price, but pay for it with tomorrow's inflated dollars. To illustrate simply how this works, let's assume you bought a home back in 1980 for \$64,000 and borrowed 100 percent of the purchase price. Assume you just now had to pay back that loan. It would cost you over \$170,000 to buy that home again today, so writing a check for \$64,000 would feel

like a real bargain. That's because you get to use today's inflated dollars to pay back money you borrowed all those years ago, when \$64,000 had a lot more purchasing power than it does today. With interest rates so low right now, a mortgage can be an excellent hedge against inflation.

If you are worried about runaway inflation, you're better off taking the money you would have used to pay off your mortgage and investing it instead in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS). Assuming you have a \$100,000 balance on your 5 percent fixed-rate mortgage, you'd save about \$47,000 in interest over the next ten years if you paid off that mortgage today. But if inflation averages 3.5 percent each year over the coming decade, you'll come out ahead if you park your money in TIPS instead of your mortgage. Even with current 10-year TIPS rates hovering around 1 percent, the interest and principal on your bond in 10 years would produce enough to pay off the mortgage, the interest, and put an extra \$5,000 in your pocket. If inflation charges even harder, you'll walk away with even more. □

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In Iran

79 arrested in protests



Thousands of people demonstrated in Tehran and other cities to demand the release of "Green movement" leaders Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karoubi.

TEHRAN – Iran's opposition said at least 79 people were arrested at protest rallies on Tuesday that the government denied had taken place at all. Authorities have deployed large numbers of security forces to prevent any repeat of the massive unrest that followed hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadi-najad's 2009 re-election and state media made no mention of Tuesday's rallies. Opposition websites said thousands of people demonstrated in Tehran and other cities to demand the release of "Green movement" leaders Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karoubi who they believe were taken from their homes last week and jailed. Prosecutor-General Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei denied the arrests, saying both men were still in their homes but were being prevented from communicating with the outside world. According to opposition website Sahamnews, at least 79 people were arrested on Tuesday. Sites said some 1,500 were arrested on February 14

during the Green movement's first rally in more than a year, which was called to show support for pro-democracy uprisings in North Africa. The police said "dozens" of people were arrested on February 14, and a parliamentary committee set up to investigate the events said only small groups of trouble-makers turned up. Talking of events on Tuesday, Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi told reporters: "A limited number of people, influenced by anti-revolutionary groups, were intending to do something." "No specific incident happened on Tuesday in Tehran," he said, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Dolatabadi declined to give the number of arrests. Despite the official line that there has been no significant resurgence of the Green movement, which the government considers to be a seditious plot guided by its Western foes, parliament has called for Mousavi and Karoubi to be tried and hanged. □

At West and al Qaeda

Gaddafi plays blame game

TRIPOLI – Muammar Gaddafi, orchestrating a populist response to rebels threatening his rule, blamed al Qaeda for creating turmoil and told applauding supporters there was a conspiracy to control Libya and its oil. Gaddafi, who said no more than 150 people were killed in the unrest caused by "terrorists," told an audience of loyalists in a speech shown live on state television that if Washington or other foreign powers entered Libya they would face a bloody war. Apparently confident and relaxed, but in denial about the occupation of swathes of Libya by rebels seeking an end to his long rule, Gaddafi said he was willing to discuss constitutional change without arms or chaos and would even talk with al Qaeda. "I am ready to debate any one of them, one of their 'emirs', but they do not have demands at all," he said.



Muammar Gaddafi said no more than 150 people were killed in the unrest.

"There is a conspiracy to control the Libyan oil and to control the Libyan land, to colonize Libya once again." Speaking to supporters who punctuated the address with cheers of support and declarations of loyalty, he said Libyans would fight to the "last

man and last woman" against foreigners. "We will enter a bloody war and thousands and thousands of Libyans will die if the United States enters or NATO enters," Gaddafi said, laughing at points during his long address. □

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Drug trafficking on the rise

Latin American trade is worrying



Mexican President Felipe Calderon.

BRASILIA, Brazil – Drug trafficking in Mexico is on the rise despite government action, and Brazil is increasingly being used as a transit point for the shipment of South American cocaine to West Africa, a narcotics watchdog group said in an annual report released. The International Narcotics Control Board also criticized the Bo-

livian government for a lack of action in combating production of coca, the raw material of cocaine. Coca is a mild stimulant that has high religious and social value in the Andean region, where it is used to fight hunger and alleviate altitude sickness. President Evo Morales, a former coca growers union leader who

expelled U.S. drug agents three years ago, has promoted traditional uses of coca leaf while professing zero tolerance for cocaine trafficking.

But the INCB cited a report from the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime noting that Bolivia's overall coca cultivation had increased 1 percent in 2009 over the previous year, to 119 square miles. INCB said that was enough land to allow for the harvest of 40,200 tons of coca leaves the largest amount in Bolivia since 1998.

"Those developments could increase the risk of coca leaf being diverted for use in the illicit manufacture of cocaine," the report stated.

The INCB lauded the Mexican government's efforts to battle drug gangs despite brutal violence. It also applauded efforts to fight corruption, but stated that "strong ties continue to exist between drug cartels and some law enforcement authorities."

"Corruption has severely hindered the effectiveness of law enforcement in Mexico," the report concluded, noting that the government acknowledged as much when it announced a need to reduce the ability of drug cartels to infiltrate and corrupt authorities. □

In Sudan

Scores killed in flashpoint clash



JUBA, Sudan – Clashes in two Sudanese flashpoints left scores dead, officials said reigniting fears for the stability of the country's oil-producing south in the countdown to its independence.

Arab nomads and militias fought southern police in the contested north-south border area of Abyei killing at least six people, the latest in a series of clashes, officials said.

Renegade militia fighters clashed with south Sudan's army on Sunday in the southern oil state of Jonglei, where French oil giant Total is due to start exploring, both sides said.

The rebels reported just short of 100 died in the state that borders Ethiopia. The southern army said the figure was "exaggerated" and it lost 40 soldiers. The violence has cast a shadow over mass celebrations after southerners overwhelmingly voted to declare independence from the north in a referendum in January.

The referendum was promised in a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war with the north.

Rebel leader George Athor accused the southern army (SPLA) of starting the fighting in Jonglei on Sunday and earlier last month, breaking the terms of a ceasefire agreed in January. □

Over Afghan civilian deaths

US commander apologizes

ASADABAD, Afghanistan – The commander of international troops in Afghanistan, General David Petraeus, said he was "deeply sorry" for the deaths of nine civilians in a coalition air strike.

Petraeus's personal apology came hours after President Hamid Karzai issued an angry statement saying nine young children died in Tuesday's strike as they collected firewood in Darah-Ye Pech district of northeastern Kunar province. Civilian casualties in foreign military operations against the Taliban have been high on Afghanistan's political agenda recently, highlighting tensions between Karzai and the West before a planned limited withdrawal of foreign troops from July.

The Afghan army and police are due to take control of security in their own country from 2014.

"We are deeply sorry for this tragedy and apologize to



the members of the Afghan government, the people of Afghanistan and most importantly, the surviving family members of those killed by our actions," Petraeus said in a statement.

"These deaths should have never happened and I will personally apologize to President Karzai." A NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) statement made no reference to the age of those who died in the attack.

The incident happened after an insurgent rocket attack on a

military base prompted coalition forces to return fire, including with air power, it said.

Petraeus has now ordered all helicopter crews to be re-briefed on the need to keep civilian casualties "to the absolute minimum" and troops could face disciplinary action over the strike, the ISAF statement added. Karzai had earlier criticised foreign forces on civilian deaths, saying they would face "huge problems" if the "daily killing of innocent civilians" did not stop. He also stressed that "Afghan villages are not the bases and havens of terrorism."

About 150 people demonstrated in the town of Asadabad, the capital of Kunar, over the deaths, shouting anti-American slogans, witnesses said.

Civilian casualties during international military operations against insurgents are a source of friction between the Kabul government and its Western backers. □

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Reports that the last WWI vet died earlier this week were wrong

Last WWI combatant to mark 110th birthday today



SYDNEY – World War I's last surviving combatant Claude Choules will celebrate his 110th birthday on Thursday with a low-key party, his son said, describing his father as a reluctant "celebrity" who hates war.

British-born Choules, who is nicknamed "Chuckles" and lives in an Australian nursing home, will mark his birthday just days after the death of American Frank Buckles made him the 1914-1918 conflict's last male veteran.

"He's blind and he's deaf, but we get up close to him and we shout at him and he understands," his son Adrian Choules, 76, told the press from Perth in Western Australia.

"And he still knows who we are. I don't think he suffers from dementia any more than you and I do. He's just biding his time."

In previous interviews Claude Choules has credited cod-liver oil, a healthy diet low on alcohol as well as regular exercise and laughter for his longevity, joking that the real secret to a long life is to "just keep breathing".

Choules lied about his age to join Britain's Royal Navy in World War I later witnessing the 1919 scuttling of the German fleet at Scapa Flow and was an officer in the Royal Australian Navy during World War II.

According to official listings by the Australian and British armed forces, he became the Great War's last surviving combatant after Buckles' death at 110 on Sunday.

British veterans Henry Allingham and Harry Patch, aged 110 and 113 respectively,

both died in 2009. The last combatant from the opposing side, Franz Kuentler of the then Austro-Hungarian Empire, died aged 107 in 2008.

"He's a celebrity now, he's a celebrity because everybody else has died," Adrian Choules said of his father. "He is a celebrity because

of his war experience and he hated war." The only other surviving WWI veteran is believed to be Britain's Florence Green,

who served with the Women's Royal Air Force in a non-combat role in England. She is now 110, according to the RAF. □

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This is just the start

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Future historians will long puzzle over how the self-immolation of a Tunisian street vendor, Mohamed Bouazizi, in protest over the confiscation of his fruit stand, managed to trigger popular uprisings across the Arab/Muslim world. We know the big causes – tyranny, rising food prices, youth unemployment and social media. But since being in Egypt, I’ve been putting together my own back-of-the-envelope guess list of what I’d call the “not-so-obvious forces” that fed this mass revolt. Here it is:

THE OBAMA FACTOR: Americans have never fully appreciated what a radical thing we did – in the eyes of the rest of the world – in electing an African-American with the middle name Hussein as president. I’m convinced that listening to Obama’s 2009 Cairo speech – not the words, but the man – were more than a few young Arabs who were saying to themselves: “Hmmm, let’s see. He’s young. I’m young. He’s dark-skinned. I’m dark-skinned. His middle name is Hussein. My name is Hussein. His grandfather is a Muslim. My grandfather is a Muslim. He is president of the United States. And I’m an unemployed young Arab with no vote and no voice in my future.” I’d put that in my mix of forces fueling these revolts.

GOOGLE EARTH: While Facebook has gotten all the face time in Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain, don’t forget Google Earth, which began roiling Bahraini politics in 2006. A big issue in Bahrain, particularly among Shiite men who want to get married and build homes, is the unequal distribution of land. On Nov. 27, 2006, on the eve of parliamentary elections in Bahrain, The Washington Post ran this report from there: “Mahmood, who lives in a house with his parents, four siblings and their children, said he became even more frustrated when he looked up Bahrain on Google Earth and saw vast tracts of empty land, while tens of thousands of mainly poor Shiites were squashed together in small, dense areas.

‘We are 17 people crowded in one small house, like many people in the southern district,’ he said. ‘And you see on Google how many palaces there are and how the al-Khalifas ((the Sunni ruling family)) have the rest of the country to themselves.’ Bahraini activists have encouraged people to take a look at the country on Google Earth, and they have set up a special user group whose members have access to more than 40 images of royal palaces.”

ISRAEL: The Arab TV network Al-Jazeera has a big team covering Israel today. Here are some of the stories they have been beaming into the Arab world: Israel’s previous prime minister, Ehud Olmert, had to resign because he was accused of illicitly taking envelopes stuffed with money from a Jewish-American backer. An Israeli court recently convicted Israel’s former president Moshe Katsav on two counts of rape, based on accusations by former employees. And just a few weeks ago, Israel, at the last second, rescinded the appointment of Maj. Gen. Yoav Galant as the army’s new chief of staff after Israeli environmentalists spurred a government investigation that concluded Galant had seized public land near his home. □

Can you drive your smart phone?

By MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

DETROIT – I’m barreling along a rural Michigan highway at 75 mph in a gray Ford Taurus X when I glance down to check a number on a screen.

It can’t be more than two seconds, but when I look back up, I’m inches from plowing into a huge green truck. Panicked, I slam on the brakes. Even though I’m in Virttex, the Ford simulator that uses virtual reality to give you the eerily real sensation that you’re flying down the highway past cars and barns, I still feel shaken.

I made the mistake of taking my eyes off the road for more than 1.5 seconds, which is the danger zone, according to technology experts at Ford headquarters.

Ford, Chrysler, Chevy and other car companies are betting on the proposition that, as long as your eyes don’t stray from the road for more than a moment, your other senses can enjoy a cornucopia of diversions on your dashboard.

I worried in a prior column that Ford cars with the elaborate and popular new “in-car connectivity” sounded like death traps. Ford Sync lets you sync up to apps, reading your Twitter feeds to you. MyFord Touch plays your iPod on demand and reads your texts to you – including emoticons – and allows you to choose one of 10 prewritten responses (“I’m on my way,” “I’m outside,” “OK”).

It also has voice-activated 3-D navigation that allows you to merely announce “I’m hungry” or “Find Chinese restaurant.”

Your car can even help you with a bad mood by giving you ambient lighting, vibrating your seat or heating your steering wheel. Ford executives invited me to Detroit to experience their snazzy new technology firsthand.

They are on the cusp of a system featuring the futuristic avatar Eva, the vaguely creepy face and voice of a woman on your dashboard who can read you your e-mail, update your schedule, recite articles from newspapers, guide you to the restaurant where you’re having lunch and recommend a selection from your iPod. Ford’s working on a Web browser, which would be locked while driving. Remember when your car used to be a haven of peace from the world? Now it’s just a bigger, noisier and much more dangerously distracting smart phone.



Maureen Dowd

Over lunch at Ford, Sue Cischke, a dynamic company executive, argued that even before cell phones and iPods, drivers were in danger of distraction from reaching for a briefcase or shooing away a bee.

“Telling younger people not to use a cell phone is almost like saying, ‘Don’t breathe,’” she said.

Given that Americans are addicted to Web access and tech toys, she said, it will never work to simply ban them. “So we’ve got to figure out how we make people safer,” she said, “and the more people can just talk to their car like they’re talking to a passenger, the more useful it would be.” Given that, however, we’re talking about human beings who live in an ADD world, wouldn’t it be safer to try to curb the addiction, rather than indulging it?

Nobody thought you could get young people to pay for music after downloading it for free, either, but they do.

David Teater, a former market research consultant to auto manufacturers, lost his 12-year-old son in a distracted driving acci-

dent in Grand Rapids, Mich., seven years ago. A 20-year-old nanny driving her charge in her employer’s Hummer was so immersed in a cell phone call that she ran a red light and smashed into Teater’s wife’s Chevy Suburban. Now he works at the National Safety Council.

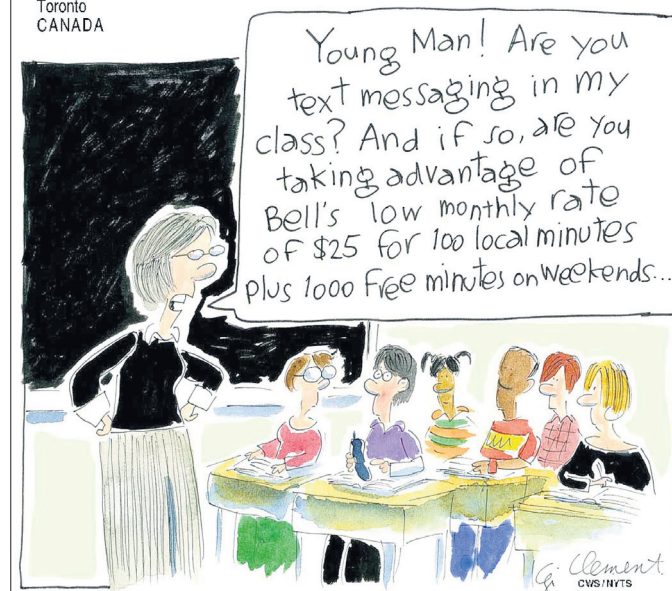
He says he doesn’t expect car companies – which are trying to make cars more seductive – to be arbiters of safety. “They were slow to move toward seat belts and airbags until we, the customer, said we want it,” he said. He sees the overwrought dashboards as trouble. “We can chew gum and walk, but we can’t do two cognitively demanding tasks simultaneously.” Ray LaHood, the secretary of transportation, is livid about the dashboard bells and whistles. When he saw a Ford ad with a bubbly young woman named Kelly using the new souped-up system to gab on the phone hands-free and not paying attention to the road, he called Alan Mulally, the president and CEO of Ford.

“I said to him, ‘That girl looks so distracted, it belies belief that this is what you want in terms of safety,’” LaHood told me. “Putting entertainment centers in automobiles does not contribute to safe driving. When you’re trying to update your Facebook or put out a tweet, it’s a distraction.”

He said he would compile his own statistics, meet with car executives and use the bully pulpit. “We’ll see what the auto companies can do voluntarily and what we need to do otherwise,” he said. “I don’t think drivers should be doing any of that.” □

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Serena Williams treated for blood clot in lungs

This Sept. 26, 2010, file photo shows Serena Williams arriving at “Macy’s Passport Presents Glamorama” event in Los Angeles. People magazine is reporting that Williams has undergone surgery for a pulmonary embolism. Spokeswoman Nicole Chabot tells the magazine that the blood clot in Williams’ lungs was discovered last week, and that she had “emergency treatment (Monday) for a hematoma she suffered as a result” of that treatment. Williams is being treated at a Los Angeles hospital.

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Associated Press



SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Thursday, March 3, 2011

Ireland thrills as Bangalore brings more ICC drama



Ireland's John Mooney celebrates their win over England after hitting the winning shot during the Cricket World Cup Group B match between England and Ireland in Bangalore, India, Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Associated Press

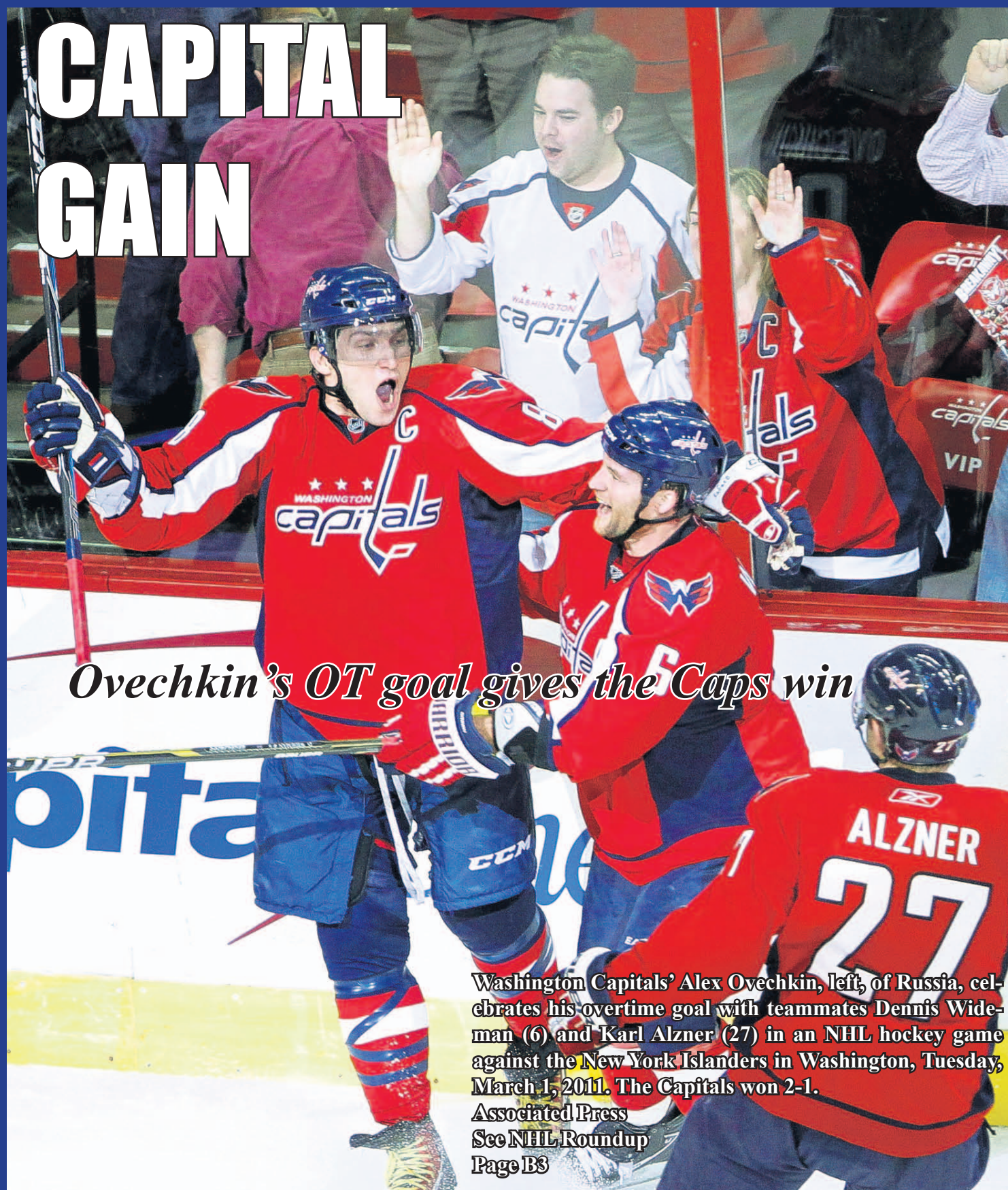
GERALD IMRAY,
AP Sports Writer
MOHALI, India (AP) — Kevin O'Brien provided a brilliant one-man argument for the inclusion of the smaller nations at future World Cups after he blasted Ireland to a stunning upset victory over England on Wednesday.

Bangalore's Chinnaswamy Stadium provided more high-drama just three days after the tie between England and India, but this time it was the English who couldn't defend a score in excess of 300.

Continued on page 6

CAPITAL GAIN

Ovechkin's OT goal gives the Caps win



Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin, left, of Russia, celebrates his overtime goal with teammates Dennis Wideman (6) and Karl Alzner (27) in an NHL hockey game against the New York Islanders in Washington, Tuesday, March 1, 2011. The Capitals won 2-1.

Associated Press
See NHL Roundup
Page B3



Tiger Woods tips his cap to the crowd after losing to Thomas Bjorn of Denmark, in 19 holes during the first round of the Match Play Championship golf tournament Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

Nicklaus says Woods' slump will end

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Jack Nicklaus doubts his lead in career Grand Slam titles will last — he figures it's just a matter of time before Tiger Woods' slump ends.

Woods hasn't won a tournament since he became immersed in a sex scandal in November 2009, and he's stalled at 14 major titles, four shy of Nicklaus' record.

"I still think he'll break my record," Nicklaus said Wednesday before playing a round in the Honda Classic pro-am. "I'm surprised that he has not bounced back by now. He's got such a great work ethic. He's so determined to what he wants to do."

Nicklaus said he hasn't talked to Woods since last June, and that conversation was brief.

"He got maybe off the track, but I think he's really a principled kid," Nicklaus said. "Did he have some wayward ... ? Yes. But are we all perfect? No."

Woods isn't playing Honda, a tournament he has skipped every year since 1993. Last week, he was eliminated in the first round of the Match Play Championship, and he has failed to crack the top 20 in his three tournaments this year. □

Serena Williams treated for blood clot in lungs, hematoma

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

Serena Williams' absence from tennis could stretch to almost a year after two new health scares — a blood clot in her lungs followed by a hematoma — have added to her injury woes.

Her agents confirmed Wednesday that Williams was diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism last week and later needed treatment for a hematoma.

The 13-time Grand Slam champion hasn't played an official match since winning Wimbledon last July because of a foot injury she sustained not on the court but at a restaurant.

Her latest health problems have been "extremely hard, scary and disappointing," Williams said in a statement. "I am doing better. I'm at home now and working with my doctors to keep everything under control. I know I will be OK, but am praying and hoping this will all be behind me soon."

"While I can't make any promises now on my return, I hope to be back by early sum-



This July 3, 2010, defending champion Serena Williams reacts as she wins a point from Vera Zvonareva, during the women's singles final at Wimbledon.

Associated Press

mer. That said, my main goal is to make sure I get there safely."

People magazine first reported on Williams' condition, quoting spokeswoman Nicole Chabot as saying Williams underwent "emergency treatment" Monday for a hematoma suffered as a result of treatment for "a more critical situation," the pulmonary em-

bolism.

The 29-year-old Williams was treated at a Los Angeles hospital then returned to her home in the city.

"Thankfully everything was caught in time," her agents said in a statement. "With continued doctor visits to monitor her situation, she is recuperating at home under strict medical supervision."

Williams' mother, Oracene Price, tweeted: "Thank you for your concern. She is fine."

The tennis star attended Sunday night's Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party. On Tuesday night, Williams posted on her Twitter account, "Tough day." A few minutes later, she retweeted Kim Kardashian.

The younger sister of seven-time major champion Venus Williams has been out of competition since she cut her right foot on broken glass at a restaurant shortly after winning her fourth Wimbledon title July 3. Her comeback has been repeatedly delayed by complications with the injury. Williams had surgery after initially hurting her foot and pulled out of the U.S. Open. She resumed practicing in September, but kept pushing back her return and needed an additional operation in October. □

Williams still feeling the effects of a busy week

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — After spending just one day in his new apartment, New Jersey Nets point guard Deron Williams embarked on a trans-Atlantic trip to play a couple of home games in Britain.

And he's feeling the effects. "I haven't had anytime to just sit down somewhere and relax," Williams said Wednesday, a week after being traded from the Utah Jazz and two days before the first regular-season NBA games to be played in Europe.

"I haven't had much time, been in my place for one day," Williams said. "I've done a lot of traveling over the last six days."

On Friday, Williams will take the court with his new teammates from the Nets (17-43), this time against the Toronto Raptors (17-44) at London's O2 Arena. The same teams will play again on Saturday night.

"There's a lot of young talent on this team. It is a young team," Williams said. "The last 20 games will help us get used to each other and I think things will turn around for next year."

Williams' impact has already been felt by his new teammates, and his home debut on Monday in Newark looked to be a big step in the right direction.

Williams had 13 points and five assists in New Jersey's 104-103 overtime loss to the Phoenix Suns.

"He's great," shooting guard Sasha Vujacic said of his new teammate. "Obviously we'll need some time to get used to each other — it's not going to happen over night — but just to have him, to have someone who knows how to play point guard ... it's just great addition to us and we are building a team for the future."

The Nets arrived in London on Tuesday morning, taking an overnight flight after the loss to the Suns. □

Vick signs deal with Eagles



This Dec. 12, 2010, file photo shows Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick celebrating after throwing a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick has signed a one-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Pro Bowl quarterback was designated as the team's franchise player Feb. 15. He signed the franchise tender Wednesday.

Vick led the Eagles to a 10-6 record and the NFC East title after replacing an injured Kevin Kolb in Week 1. Despite missing three games with an injury, Vick had his best season. He set career highs in yards passing (3,018), touchdowns passing (21), touchdowns rushing (9), completion percentage (62.6) and passer rating (100.2).

Vick was voted The Associated Press Comeback Player of the Year after missing two seasons while serving a jail sentence and playing sparingly in 2009. □

NHL Roundup

Ovechkin's overtime goal gives Capitals a 2-1 win

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored 1:55 into overtime after Brooks Laich leveled the game with a minute left in regulation as the Washington Capitals snatched a 2-1 win from the New York Islanders on Tuesday night. Ovechkin picked up a loose puck near the boards and made a mad dash down the beating goalie Nathan Lawson with a backhand shot.

Lawson made 40 saves and kept the Caps at bay until Brooks Laich scored with 47.2 seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Laich redirected a pass from recently acquired Jason Arnott into the net. Washington improved to 11-3-0 in its last 14 games against the Islanders, who have lost four straight overall.

Oilers 2, Predators 1, SO

At Edmonton, Linus Omark and Jordan Eberle scored in a shootout for the home team's win.

Jim Vandermeer scored in the first period to tie it less than a minute after Blake Geoffrion made it 1-0 with his first career NHL goal.

Martin Gerber stopped 34

shots — 18 in the first period alone — for the Oilers, who have won five of eight.

Geoffrion is the first fourth-generation player in the NHL. Great-grandfather Howie Morenz, grandfather Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion — both Hall of Famers — and father Dan Geoffrion all played in the league, too.

Gerber also stopped two shots in the shootout, and David Legwand missed right before Omark scored in the fourth round for the Oilers. He is 3-0 this season with the Oilers while Nikolai Khabibulin heals from an eye injury.

Canucks 2, Blue Jackets 1, SO

At Vancouver, Raffi Torres scored in the eighth round of the shootout, and Roberto Luongo stopped six shooters.

Mason Raymond scored for Vancouver in regulation, and Luongo made 30 saves in the first 65 minutes.

Despite alternating wins and losses for the past 11 games, Vancouver extended its lead atop the NHL to three points over Philadelphia and five ahead of Detroit in the West-

ern Conference.

Scott Upshall scored in his Blue Jackets debut after being acquired in a trade Monday, then watched nervously as his new teammates killed off the four-minute high-sticking penalty he took with less than five minutes left.

Sharks 2, Avalanche 1, SO

At San Jose, Antti Niemi was perfect in the shootout just hours after getting a contract extension, and Ryane Clowe scored in the first round of the tiebreaker. Joe Thornton tied it with 2:58 remaining in regulation for the Sharks, who have won seven straight and 16 of 19. Niemi made 18 saves to cap a day that began with him signing a \$15.2 million, four-year extension. It was the second consecutive game in which Clowe scored the deciding goal in a shootout and the second straight time he did it with his forehand instead of his usual shootout move to the backhand. Niemi stopped Milan Hejduk after Clowe's goal and then Matt Duchene hit the post and David Jones shot wide for the Avalanche, who have lost 14 of 15.



Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, hits the puck and scores against New York Islanders goaltender Nathan Lawson (52) and Islanders' Jack Hillen (38) during overtime in an NHL hockey game in Washington, Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Capitals' Nicklas Backstrom (19) of Sweden looks on. Washington won 2-1.

Associated Press

Hurricanes 2, Panthers 1

At Raleigh, Cory Stillman had a goal and an assist for Carolina five days after the Panthers traded him to the Hurricanes. Eric Staal had Carolina's other goal. Stephen Weiss scored for Florida. Staal, the Hurricanes' captain, was back in the lineup after missing Saturday's game at Montreal following a hard upper-body check from Pittsburgh's Matt Niskanen

that had taken him out late in the second period on Friday.

In other NHL games it was **Edmonton 2, Nashville 1, SO; Vancouver 2, Columbus 1, SO; San Jose 2, Colorado 1, SO; Buffalo 3, N.Y. Rangers 2; Washington 2, N.Y. Islanders 1, OT; Carolina 2, Florida 1; Montreal 3, Atlanta 1; Boston 1, Ottawa 0; Calgary 6, St. Louis 0; and Dallas 3, Phoenix 2.** □

GM says no deals were worth cost

By R.B. FALLSTROM

AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Blues are in rebuilding mode again after dealing off several veteran players. General manager Doug Armstrong said it's not from lack of financial backing.

Armstrong said Tuesday that ownership had cleared him to make upgrades before the trade deadline but that the talent pool was too shallow and too expensive for a short-term lift that would conflict with the earlier salary-shaving trades of Eric Brewer, Brad Boyes and Brad Winchester for draft picks.

The Blues were 13th in the Western Conference and seven points out of the final playoff spot heading into Tuesday night's game against the Calgary Flames and are likely to miss the playoffs for the fifth time in six seasons.

A private equity firm that is the largest investor in the franchise, TowerBrook Capital Partners, announced last spring that it would sell its share of the team. The payroll is among the lowest in the NHL, but the general manager said the ongoing search for a new backer was not a factor.

"I just didn't think the field was big enough. If we were going to make a trade, it had to be the right trade, and I thought there were going to be better opportunities moving ahead."

Ben Bishop, a 24-year-old goalie prospect, made his third straight start Tuesday with Jaroslav Halak missing his eighth game with a fractured hand.

Backup goalie Ty Conklin cleared waivers and Armstrong said he'd be with St. Louis the rest of the season.

"Anything can happen, we can make a great push," Armstrong said. "Ben might be the next Patrick Roy, you never know. We're hoping for the best, but we're dealing in reality."

Armstrong expected Halak back by the weekend but forward David Perron remained sidelined by a concussion sustained in early November.

"He's feeling somewhat the same. I would say there's no real progress there," Armstrong said. Forward Vladimir Sobotka will be out a month with a broken left foot from blocking a shot Sunday in Calgary and Armstrong said rookie forward Philip McRae will be placed on injured reserve Wednesday with a lower body injury. □

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SP = subtítulos en Español

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

It's getting harder for sanity to win in NFL talks



NFL owners Robert Kraft, New England Patriots, left, talks with Jerry Jones, Dallas Cowboys, as NFL Roger Goodell, second from right, and John Mara, New York Giants, arrive for football labor negotiations with the NFL involving a federal mediator in Wednesday, March 2, 2011, in Washington.

Associated Press

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

As the clock strikes midnight Thursday on the NFL's labor contract, it's probably safe to say the same fans who can diagram a 4-3 defense blindfolded don't have much of an understanding of the issues that could lead to empty stadiums next fall.

They're hardly alone, because at first glance the whole thing seems like a fight between millionaires and billionaires that is as unnecessary as it is ill-timed. Hard-liners on both sides have taken it to the brink, and there's no indication that sanity will prevail before the current collective bargaining

agreement expires and things really begin to get nasty.

Some things, though, are easier to understand. Let's start with the news this week that Michael Vick signed a one-year deal that will pay him an estimated \$20 million to play quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles next season — assuming, that is, there is a next season.

Not only will Vick be able to pay his debtors with a contract that would have been unimaginable when he was making 12 cents an hour in prison, but he'll help upgrade the salary range for his fellow quarterbacks in the process.

It's no secret that NFL players

are well compensated. They should be, because their careers are generally short and they expose their bodies and heads to risks that athletes in other sports would never dream of.

But the owners aren't doing badly, either, despite their protestations that they gave away the farm in the current contract and must snatch back at least \$1 billion of the money they now have to share with players.

Consider the case of one Jerry Jones, last seen trying to sell some rubes Super Bowl tickets with no seat. Jones bought the Dallas Cowboys in 1989 for \$140 million and is now the proud owner of a franchise that Forbes magazine values at a whopping \$1.8 billion.

Jones is hardly alone, as his fellow owners have enjoyed returns on their investments that would make Bernard Madoff envious.

Robert Kraft is one of them, parlaying his \$172 million purchase of the New England Patriots in 1994 into a franchise that Forbes now values at a cool \$1 billion more than that.

No one begrudges them their profits, either. This is America, after all, and the NFL is America's favorite sport in a landslide.

But Jones, Kraft and their fellow billionaires are people ac-

customed to getting their way, which is one big reason why a league enjoying unparalleled popularity would risk alienating its rabid fans with a labor dispute that is clearly avoidable.

They're determined to increase their profit margins by lowering labor costs and increasing the workload and aren't terribly concerned with the public relations backlash that will come if they lock out the players.

They're also not above pulling a fast one to get what they want, which is what they did in strong-arming television networks and DirecTV into agreeing to deals that essentially guaranteed that they would still get paid up to \$4 billion in case the upcoming season is wiped out by the labor dispute.

Unfortunately for the owners, a federal judge sided with players on Tuesday on that issue. It was an embarrassing setback for the billionaires, made even more embarrassing when the judge made public the confidential sweetheart deals the NFL had struck with its broadcast partners.

Whether that will be an impetus to move negotiations forward is doubtful and not just because the owners are hard-nosed. Players who got almost everything they wanted in the last contract except guaran-

teed salaries have given no indication whatsoever that they intend to give back any of the gains, and they seem united against an 18-game season.

Both the owners and the union have drawn their respective lines in the sand. The fact that both sides seem to have a genuine distrust toward each other is going to make it that much harder to get a deal done.

Just what a lockout or possible union decertification means to fans depends on how long it goes on. Initially, it will cut into the buzz of the offseason because there will be no free agency, and the NFL draft next month surely will have a hollow feel because those drafted won't be able to bargain with their teams.

It really will start to get messy by summer as the opening of training camps approaches. The worst case scenario, of course, is that the NFL loses regular-season games to a work stoppage for the first time in 24 years.

Don't bet against that happening.

The NFL takes in more than \$9 billion a year, and you would think reasonable minds could figure out a way to divvy that up between owners and their hired help.

Judging from the pace of negotiations so far, reasonable minds don't seem to be running the show. □

Blind draw part of IndyCar twin races at Texas Speedway

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Want a fresh twist at the track with the "No Limits" slogan?

Try this: A blind draw and an hour-long break will be part of the twin IndyCar Series races in Texas coming up in June.

The rules were revealed Wednesday for the first dual races in major open-wheel racing in 30 years. The races will be held June 11 at Texas Motor Speedway, the high-banked track that is one of the fastest in the series.

"I like it. I like something different," Danica Patrick said during the track's annual media day. "The opportunity for us to do something different that generates buzz and attention is really positive. It will be entertaining for the fans, and the drivers as well."

The Firestone Twin 275s will replace the single 550-kilometer (342 miles) event at the track.

Each race will pay half the points and half the bonus prizes. There will be an hour between races for teams to prepare their cars, and enough time for a halftime show of sorts by TMS president and showman Eddie Gossage.

Part of the break will include drivers coming up on a stage for a blind draw to determine their starting spot for the second race instead of being determined by the results of the first race.

"I haven't gone to random draw for a starting position for anything since I was in go-karting. It was a random draw for the first heat race, then they invert that for the second race. It's reminding me of old rules," Patrick said. "I had a lot of fun when I was go-karting, making my way up through the pack of 20 or 30 go-karts in



Danica Patrick speaks during media day at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Associated Press

an eight-lap heat race and winning them."

Cars will use the same pit stalls for both races, and each team will receive one additional engine for use as needed for the second race. There have been only 17 twin races, nine on ovals, in the history of U.S. open-wheel racing including CART and USAC. All of those twin bills were between 1967 and 1981, the last a CART-sanctioned event at Atlanta Motor Speedway when Rick Mears won both races. □

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NBA Roundup

Howard goes 30-16 to lead Magic past Knicks, 116-110

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Dwight Howard had 30 points and 16 rebounds and Jameer Nelson scored 23 of his 26 points in the second half as the Orlando Magic outlasted the New York Knicks 116-110 on Tuesday night.

The Magic trailed 58-47 at halftime, but surged in the second half as the Knicks struggled from the field.

The win was the Magic's third straight and fifth in six games. It was also Orlando's second win this season over the Knicks, who host the Magic twice before the end of the month.

New York fell to two wins and two losses since acquiring All-Star Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups. The Knicks finished 1-1 on the Florida swing, following its win over Miami on Sunday.

Amare Stoudemire and Billups led New York with 30 points apiece, followed by Anthony with 25.

Mavericks 101, 76ers 93

At Philadelphia, Jason Terry scored 30 points, Jason Kidd had a triple-double, and Dallas won its seventh straight game.

Dirk Nowitzki added 22 points for the Mavericks, who have won a whopping 17 of 18 games to move into second place in the Western Conference.

Terry used near-flawless shooting over the second and third quarters to give the Mavs the lead, then sealed the win

late in the fourth with a dunk where he waved his arms in celebration.

Kidd had 13 points, 13 assists, 10 rebounds and no turnovers. Lakers 90, Timberwolves 79 At Minneapolis, Pau Gasol, Andrew Bynum and the Lakers' towering front line overwhelmed Kevin Love on the boards in a victory over Minnesota.

Gasol had 17 rebounds and 12 points, Bynum had 14 points and seven boards and the Lakers scored 28 second-chance points to overcome a poor shooting night and win their fifth straight game.

Wes Johnson had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who led for much of the first three quarters before the Lakers asserted themselves.

Love had 13 points and 11 rebounds, his 47th straight double-double.

The last time he did not have one was against the Lakers on Nov. 19.

But he was just 2 for 10 from the floor and barely kept the longest double-double streak since 1980 alive.

Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, but made just 8 of 18 shots in an ugly offensive game for both teams.

Grizzlies 109, Spurs 93

At Memphis, Darrell Arthur and Zach Randolph each scored 21 points and Memphis took advantage of San Antonio's poor ball handling.

Tony Allen added 20 points,

New York Knicks' Amare Stoudemire hangs on the rim after dunking the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

Associated Press

missing only one of his nine shots, and Mike Conley had 18 points and nine assists as Memphis won its season-best fifth straight home game.

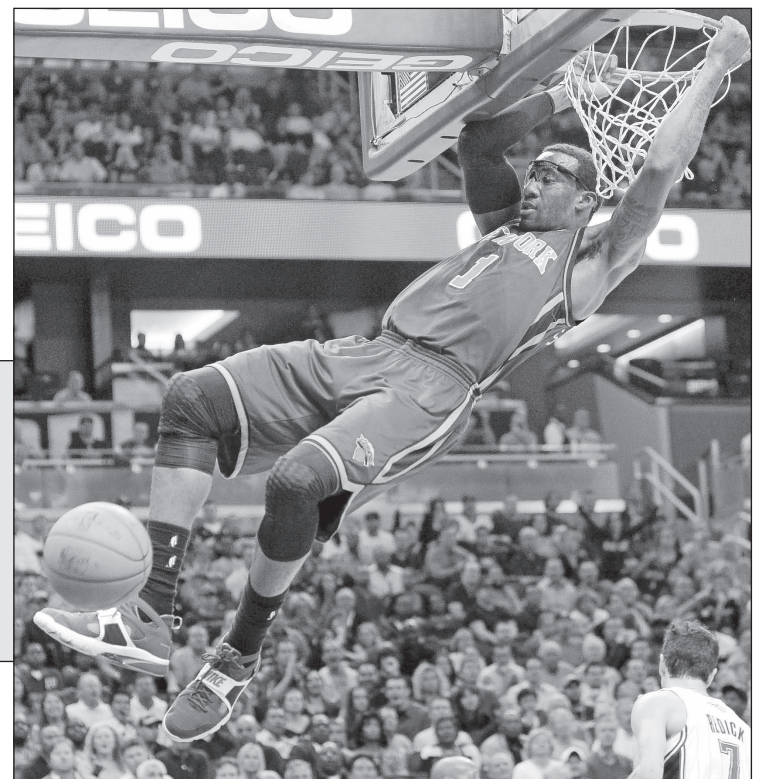
Gary Neal was the only Spur to finish in double figures with 14 points. Starters Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and DeJuan Blair had nine points apiece, as they sat out the fourth quarter.

The Spurs (49-11) were playing their first game without starting point guard Tony Parker, who is expected to miss two to four weeks after straining his left calf when the Spurs beat Memphis on Saturday.

Pacers 109, Warriors 100

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 27 points, hitting all 16 free throws, as Indiana held off Golden State.

In other NBA games Indiana 109, Golden State 100; Orlando 116, New York 110; Dallas 101, Philadelphia 93; Toronto 96, New Orleans 90; Memphis 109, San Antonio 93; Milwaukee 92, Detroit 90; L.A. Lakers 90, Minnesota 79; and Houston 103, Portland 87. □



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ITF: 5th 'dead rubber' in Davis Cup can be dropped

LONDON (AP) — Davis Cup teams will no longer have to play a fifth match if one side already has an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

The International Tennis Federation announced the new "dead rubber" rule on Wednesday ahead of this weekend's World Group first-round matches.

Under the change, if one team clinches victory in the best-of-five series after the fourth match on Sunday — the first reverse singles — and that match lasted at least four sets, the captains can agree to scrap the second reverse singles. However, all five matches still have to be played if a team earns an unbeatable 3-0 lead after Saturday's doubles, or the tie is decided after the fourth match which has gone only three sets. All "dead rubbers" will continue to be played over best-of-three tiebreaker sets. □

Williams F1 team's shares make Frankfurt debut

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Shares in the Williams Formula One team have slipped in the company's debut on the Frankfurt stock exchange.

Shares of Williams Grand Prix Holdings PLC were listed at €24.07 (\$33.25) early Wednesday, below the issue price of €25.00 and the initial listing of €25.25.

Principal and co-founder Frank Williams opted to raise money publicly after losing some sponsors in 2010. The company is selling a 27.39 percent stake, with Williams remaining the majority and controlling shareholder.

F1's third-most successful team hasn't won a championship since 1997 but says it made a profit in each of the past three years.

It has secured sponsorship for this season, in which veteran Rubens Barrichello and newcomer Pastor Maldonado will drive. □



Ireland's Kevin O'Brien celebrates his record breaking century during the Cricket World Cup match between England and Ireland in Bangalore, India, Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Associated Press

Ireland went one better and clinched a last-over victory after a remarkable recovery from a seemingly hopeless position.

O'Brien blazed 113 off 63 balls — and the fastest century in World Cup history on the way — to drag Ireland back from 111-5 and send it past England's 327-8 in a breath-

taking, and record-breaking run chase.

The highest successful run chase ever at a World Cup doesn't belong to giants India or Australia — or even to previous record holder Sri Lanka anymore — but to Ireland, a team that's unlikely to even be at the next World Cup in 2015. The ruling International

AP Interview: FIBA wants commitment beyond 2012

STEPHEN WILSON

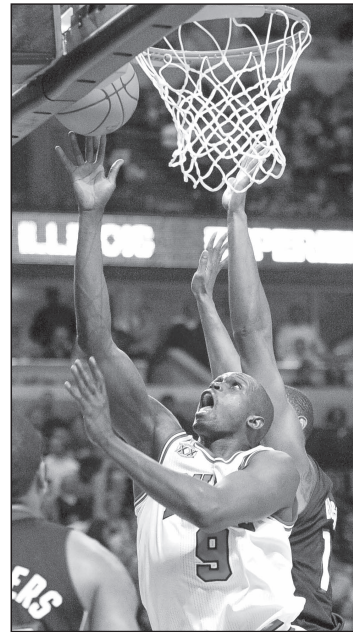
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain must prove it is serious about improving its basketball program for the long term before its teams are cleared to compete in their home Olympics next year, a leader of the sport's world governing body said Wednesday.

FIBA secretary-general Patrick Baumann said British basketball officials need to convince the global body that "the right plan is in place" to develop the sport beyond the 2012 London Games and turn its men's and women's teams into legitimate European contenders.

Britain has lagged far behind other European countries in basketball, with the sport still struggling to gain a foothold in a country where football, cricket and rugby hold sway.

"We want to make sure that the efforts they have made in basketball for the last six or seven years are not lost," Baumann told The Associated Press. "We want the country to become one of the stron-



Chicago Bulls forward Luol Deng (9) shoots past Miami Heat forward Chris Bosh, rear, during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011, in Chicago. The Bulls won 93-89 with Deng scoring 20 points.

Associated Press

gest in Europe."

FIBA is scheduled to rule on Britain's Olympic status at a central board meeting in Lyon, France, on March 13. The British Basketball Federation, set up in 2006 in hopes

of ensuring Olympic participation in 2012, has submitted a dossier backing its case.

"They need to convince the central board that they know what to do after the London Olympic Games in order to grow the game in the U.K. and they have clear plans on governance," Baumann said. "If they manage to do that, it will be a relatively simple decision to allow the teams to get to the games."

Britain's Olympic push comes as the NBA comes to London for its first regular-season games in Europe. The New Jersey Nets will play the Toronto Raptors on Friday and Saturday night at the O2 Arena.

"We can only be happy for this," Baumann said. "The image that basketball gets is just amazing. It also indicates the NBA sees this as a potentially strong basketball market. It means there is demand for the game."

NBA Commissioner David Stern has expressed hope that Britain will play in the Olympics. □

Ireland

continued from Front Page

Cricket Council has decided to cut the number of teams at the next World Cup from 14 to 10, favoring the existing test member nations at the likely expense of ICC Associate nations such as Ireland.

Ireland and fellow Associates Kenya, Netherlands and Canada will all hope the ICC and its chief executive Haroon Lorgat were watching when John Mooney clipped the first ball of the 50th over through the legside for four, taking Ireland to 329-7 and an incredible three-wicket win over the inventors of the game.

It was a huge moment for all the so-called weaker teams who have been told by the ICC that they are not good enough for 50-over World Cups and will now be sent to

play in the Twenty20 world championship instead.

O'Brien, a 26-year-old all-rounder from Dublin, also now holds the record for the quickest World Cup century after reaching triple figures off just 50 balls to smash the previous fastest off 66 balls by Australia's Matthew Hayden. The thriller in Bangalore will have also acted as a warning to South Africa and Pakistan, who both play second-tier teams on Thursday.

Opponents Netherlands and Canada — both still without a win — are bound to be inspired by O'Brien and Ireland's shining example. Canada's John Davison — who once held the record for the fastest World Cup century with his 67-ball hundred against the West Indies in 2003 — has bemoaned his lack of form so far in the 2011 edition but has the perfect inspiration for another big

innings now.

O'Brien hit 13 fours and six towering sixes to set up a victory that must rank as one of the best-ever at World Cups considering the size of the total, the gravity of Ireland's problems at 111-5 and the quality of the opposition.

The powerful right-hander shared a 162-run partnership with Alex Cusack (47) and was finally run out 11 runs short of victory, before Mooney (33 not out) and 36-year-old Trent Johnston (7 not out) took Ireland home and into the World Cup record books.

"I'm speechless. It hasn't sunk in yet," O'Brien said. "It's probably the best innings I've ever played since I started playing cricket."

Ireland captain William Porterfield made clear how the moment ranked in Irish cricket. □

Jobs breaks from medical leave to unveil iPad 2

JORDAN ROBERTSON
RACHEL METZ

AP Technology Writers
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple CEO Steve Jobs briefly emerged from his medical leave and walked on stage to a standing ovation Wednesday to unveil the second generation of the popular iPad. It comes with two cameras and will go on sale worldwide later this month.

Jobs looked frail as he appeared in his signature black mock turtleneck, blue jeans and wire-rimmed glasses.

“We’ve been working on this product for a while, and I just didn’t want to miss today,” Jobs told an audience that included bloggers and Apple enthusiasts. “Thank you for having me.”

The next-generation tablet computer is faster than the original iPad’s. As expected, it comes with two cameras for taking photos and video chatting. The battery life will be the same as the original — about 10 hours of usage or a month on standby.

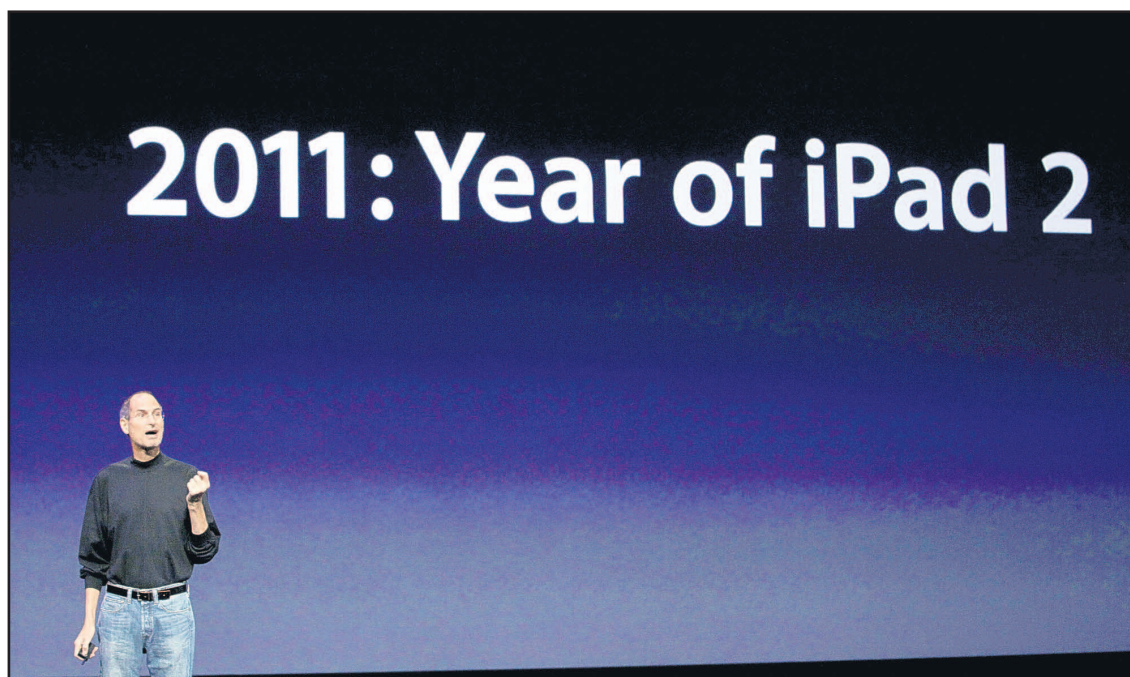
The iPad 2 is also thinner — 8.8 millimeters, or about a third of an inch, instead of the current 13.4 millimeters.

“The new iPad 2 is actually thinner than your iPhone 4,” Jobs said.

The original iPad, which went on sale last April, was more popular than analysts anticipated. Apple sold 15 million in nine months.

The iPad was initially used for checking e-mail, surfing the Web and watching online video. But as the number of software applications — or “apps” — designed just for iPad grew, the tablet made itself at home in offices, shops, restaurants and countless other settings.

The rush for iPads sparked dozens of copycat touchscreen devices, but so far, none has broken into the mainstream consciousness the way the iPad has. In February, Motorola Mobility Inc.’s Xoom, the most promising challenger so far, went on sale. It runs a new version of Google Inc.’s Android software that was designed for tablets, not smart phones.



Apple Inc. Chairman and CEO Steve Jobs introduces the iPad 2 at an Apple event at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

Associated Press

The new iPad will make it even harder for rivals to compete.

“Overall, the big message today is that Apple is offering a version 2 device while everyone else is still attempting to ship their first version 1 devices,” said Yankee Group analyst Carl Howe.

He said the iPad 2’s improvements are modest over the first one, but it will nonetheless stand out because there are more apps available.

Sarah Rotman Eps, a Forrester Research analyst, said iPads should make up at least 20 million of the 24.1 million tablet computers she expects people in the U.S. to buy this year.

Tablet computers existed long before the iPad, but it took Apple to build a device that made sense to consumers. Apple simplified the software, packed it in sleek, shiny hardware and sold it to a generation of gadget lovers who, most likely, already have a smart phone and a laptop that serve most of the same functions.

The new iPads will cost the same as the originals — \$499 to \$829, depending on storage space and whether or not they can connect to the Internet over a cellular network. Apple said there will be black and white versions, despite its problems getting the promised white iPhone 4 models to market. The first iPad came

only in black. In the U.S., the iPad 2 will work on AT&T Inc. and Verizon Wireless.

A reporter who used a white iPad 2 immediately after the announcement found it noticeably thinner and more curvy. YouTube video loaded quickly using AT&T’s data service,

and “Toy Story 3” played smoothly. Given its size, the iPad 2 appeared impractical for taking lots of photos, but both cameras will help with video chats — the front one to show the caller, and the back one to show what the caller is seeing.

Cell phone photo class is not just for taking pics

By KATHY MATHESON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A new cell phone photography class at a suburban Philadelphia university focuses on both the quality of the images and the ethical responsibilities that come with taking and publishing them.

Cell phone cameras — and associated scandals — have become so ubiquitous that it’s important for students to realize the “the full gravity of what’s at their fingertips and the power they can have,” Immaculata University communications professor Sean Flannery said.

Flannery teaches the class with Hunter Martin, a professional photographer who works with students on the mechanics of making the images, including composition, lighting and editing.

Flannery deals with such



In this Jan. 31, 2011 photo, a man takes pictures with his cell phone on Tahrir, or Liberation Square, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

issues as voyeurism, ethics, citizen journalism and the difference between public and private spaces.

With cell phone photos constantly making headlines — from the stunning picture of a US Airways jet afloat in the

Jobs also introduced a new accessory for the iPad that will let people connect the tablet to high-definition televisions, so they can watch videos up to 1080p in resolution on the bigger screen. The \$39 part plugs into the iPad’s charging port and connects to an HDMI cable.

After its March 11 U.S. launch, the iPad 2 goes on sale March 25 in at least 26 other markets, including Mexico, New Zealand, Spain and other European countries.

Apple also introduced updates to the software that runs on the iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch devices. The company said the update would work on GSM-type iPhone 3GS and iPhone 4 models; Verizon Wireless’ version uses a different technology.

The new system, iOS 4.3, includes support for FaceTime, Apple’s video-chat program. The company said people can now hold conversations between iPads, iPhones and Mac computers. □

Hudson River to the titillating image of a shirtless Rep. Chris Lee, which led to his resignation — Flannery said his goal is “to sell the students on the notion that the camera phone and its usage in culture is news in the making.” □

Fed survey: Economy expands throughout U.S.

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy expanded in January and early February in all parts of the country, but businesses reported they are under pressure to raise their prices.

A Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday showed that all 12 of the Fed’s regions reported growth at a “modest to moderate pace” and it pointed to a pickup in job creation in each. Retail sales picked up in 10 of the 12 regions, while falling in the Richmond and Atlanta areas. Factory activity rose in all districts except St. Louis. The survey hinted at some inflationary concerns. Costs are rising for manufacturers and retailers in most areas. Manufacturers in many districts said they are increasingly able to pass on those costs to customers. Retailers in some districts said they have or soon will raise prices. “There are beginning to be some troubling signs on inflation,” said Steven Wood, Chief Economist at Insight Economics. But other economists noted that the survey found little evidence that wages are increasing. Accelerating wages are “a necessary condition for a sustained, destabilizing high-inflation episode,” said Dana Saporita, an economist at Credit Suisse Securities. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke endured tough questioning from members of Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday about the threat of rising inflation. Lawmakers raised concerns that the Fed’s \$600 billion bond-purchase program is laying the groundwork for higher prices. □



In this March 1, 2011 file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gives the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to Congress while testifying before the Senate Banking Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bernanke said Wednesday, March 2, a House Republicans plan to cut \$61 billion in federal spending this year would reduce economic growth and cause job losses.



Investors pull billions from emerging markets

PAMELA SAMPSON

AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Investors disillusioned by the implosion of Wall Street titans, economic anemia in Japan, and a debt debacle in Europe have found abundant opportunities to grow wealth in industrializing economies like China and India. But now, as angry populations roil one Middle Eastern regime after the next, and discontent over escalating food prices and lagging living standards is heard elsewhere in the developing world, investors are moving staggering piles of cash out of emerging markets — and back into what they hope are the relatively stable havens of the U.S., Europe and Japan. That represents a major shift in sentiment since the financial crisis in 2008 upended conventional wisdom as to what is risky and what is safe as the U.S. model of freewheeling capitalism teetered on the brink of collapse.

Strenuous efforts by Europe to contain its debts, the ability of Japan’s crucial export sector to weather a strengthening yen and strong corporate earnings in the U.S. have played a big part in convincing investors that the outlook is pretty promising for advanced economies in 2011. According to fund tracker EPFR Global, fund managers and other investors yanked \$5.45 billion from emerging markets funds in China, India, Brazil and elsewhere in the second week of February and placed it in equity funds of advanced economies — their biggest weekly inflow in more than 30 months. Developed market funds recorded their seventh straight week of inflows in mid-February — with European equity fund flows hitting 41-week highs. So far this year, investors have committed \$47 billion to U.S., European, Japanese and global equity funds — \$29 billion of it into the U.S. alone. Meanwhile, investors have pulled out over 20 percent of the \$95 billion they parked in emerging markets during 2010 since mid-January, EPFR said. Since the beginning of the year, outflows totaled \$1 billion from mainland Chinese equity markets alone. “Investors are, for the first time since 2007, seeing more opportunity in developed market equities than in emerging markets,”



In this Oct. 25, 2010 file photo, an investor smokes near the stock price monitor at a private securities company in Shanghai.

Associated Press

said EPFR managing director Brad Durham. “The underperformance of developed markets last year, which has made valuations more appealing, and expectations of a return to faster paced growth in the US, Europe and Japan are the main drivers of this shift.” The shift from emerging markets and into developed ones has been keenly felt in some key stock markets since the beginning of the year. The Dow Jones industrial average is up 4.1 percent, Japan’s Nikkei 225 is up 5.1 percent, and Germany’s DAX rose about 4.5 percent. France’s CAC-40 is up a whopping 6.9 percent, while Britain’s FTSE 100, a relative laggard, was up slightly under 1 percent. □

China railways scandal widens, raising criticism

ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — A widening probe into corruption in China’s powerful Railways Ministry is raising questions over the scale and pace of its multibillion-dollar drive to build costly high-speed railways, though it is unlikely to derail the program.

Along with concerns over financing and other issues, at least one proposal for scaling down the showcase program is due to be presented to a top advisory group meeting in Beijing this week during the annual session of China’s National People’s Congress, a state media report said Wednesday. Critics of the high-speed railways expansion say ticket costs are too high and the services do not really meet the needs of average travelers in many areas. “Railway development plans should be more down to earth and take into account what people really need,” Wu Youying told the Shanghai Daily. Wu

is a member of the advisory group, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Congress.

While Wu’s proposal will likely gain little traction given the resources invested in high-speed rail, the corruption investigation is a blow to the program, which until recently has rivaled China’s space efforts in terms of national pride and importance. The scandal surfaced last month with the dismissal of Railways Minister Liu Zhijun amid allegations of so-far unspecified “severe violations of discipline.” Reports in the financial news magazine Caixin Media and other local media say the allegations involve kickbacks, bribes, illegal contracts and sexual liaisons. Dismissals of top Communist Party officials are rare, since they can damage the party’s credibility among a public already jaded by widespread graft. But the current leadership has sought to burnish its image with various cleanup campaigns.

Allegations against Liu have been circulating for several years, but with the leadership nervous over a possible spillover of the unrest in the Middle East, amid online calls for protests in China, the party may have felt now was a good time to act. “If you punish him, the results can only be positive. This is very well calculated on their part,” said Ding Xueliang, a China expert at Hong Kong’s University of Science and Technology.

In the latest development, Zhang Shuguang, an engineer in charge of research and development of the country’s high-speed railways, was removed, also for alleged but unnamed disciplinary violations, the official Xinhua News Agency announced late Tuesday. Zhang oversaw innovation of China’s high-speed rail technology, according to an earlier Xinhua report that quoted him describing his triumphs in negotiations with foreign companies. □

Oil jumps above \$102 per barrel

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices settled above \$102 per barrel for the first time since September of 2008 as fighting escalated in Libya and petroleum demand grew in the U.S. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate for April delivery added \$2.60, or 2.6 percent, to settle at \$102.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest settlement since Sept. 26, 2008.

In London, Brent crude added 93 cents to settle at \$116.35 per barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange.

Libya, a major oil exporter to Europe, has been embroiled in an uprising that has shut down oil production in many parts of the country. Forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi used airstrikes in a battle against protesters for control of a key oil installation in the eastern half of the country.

Analysts are concerned that the rebellion will endanger Libya’s oil fields, which produce 1.6 million barrels per day. That’s only about 2 percent of global demand, but experts say the disruption is putting pressure on world supplies at a time when demand is picking up.

Oil prices have soared nearly \$17 per barrel since the Libyan uprising began in mid-February. As chaos spreads through Libya, experts have struggled to get an accurate account of the impact of the country’s oil production.

A Libyan oil minister said the production in the east had declined 50 percent, though international observers say the drop is higher. The In-



Gasoline and diesel prices are shown Wednesday, March 2, 2011, in Portland, Ore. Oil prices rose above \$102 a barrel Wednesday as fighting escalated in Libya and petroleum demand grew in the U.S.

Associated Press

ternational Energy Agency said Wednesday that between 850,000 and 1 million barrels per day were shut in. Its previous estimate was between 500,000 and 750,000 barrels per day.

Whatever the number, not much will be moving out of the country, analysts said. Oil tankers that have made it to Libyan ports may simply be taking whatever excess supplies are available since the uprising began, Houston-based oil analyst Andrew Lipow said.

Libya’s oil fields probably will be in danger for months with nobody in clear control of the country, Barclays Capital analyst Helima Croft said. “They have a highly fractured army, so you could see security problems persisting for weeks or months,” Croft said. “This could get really messy.” It’s also unclear which companies would be able to do business with Libya’s national oil company in the wake of sanctions imposed by the U.S., the United Nations and the

European Union. Occidental Petroleum Corp., which has interests in Libyan oil fields that produced 13,000 barrels per day for the company last year, is unsure how the restrictions will affect its business. The Los Angeles company stopped doing business in Libya from 1986 to 2005 because of prior sanctions, “We’re still evaluating the current U.S. position,” spokesman Richard Kline said. In the U.S., the government reported Wednesday that petroleum demand continues to rise from last year, and oil and gasoline supplies both dropped unexpectedly last week.

Since demonstrations spread to Libya, WTI has risen about 19 percent, Brent about 13 percent. The rise in oil prices continues to push U.S. gasoline prices to new highs for this time of year. Gasoline prices are expected keep rising, though more gradually, this spring, topping out at between \$3.50 and \$3.75 a gallon. □

The Casino at the Radisson pays out cash

PALM BEACH —Island visitor Shelli King, staying at the Occidental Grand cashed a giant jackpot of \$1,700 when she dropped in for some slot play, visiting the Casino at the Radisson. Slot Tournament players Shirley Seidel, Carmen Koolman & Andres

Flanegin, shared the \$600 prize-money, as the three top tournament winners, while Ludwina Dykhoff won an iPod Nano, Theodor Gei received a gift certificate for Sunday Brunch for two at the famed Sunset Grill Restaurant, and Glenda Wer-

leman was presented with a gift certificate for dinner for two at Laguna Restaurant. The Casino at the Radisson continues to offer bingo twice a week, on Saturday & Sunday at 1 pm, and orchestrates a fun weekly program of tournaments and promotions. □



In this Oct. 26, 2010 file photo, a journalist photographs bullet trains of a new high-speed railway linking Shanghai and Hangzhou in Shanghai before the start of the service. A widening probe into graft in China’s powerful Railways Ministry is raising calls for the government to pull back on its multibillion-dollar investment drive into costly high-speed railways.

Associated Press

Cops take twins from Sheen after threats



Brooke Mueller

LOS ANGELES — Charlie Sheen's estranged wife Brooke Mueller obtained a restraining order to keep the actor away from her and their young sons because she was afraid of violent comments the actor had made in recent days, including threats that he would stab her in the eye with a pen knife. The order, which was issued after Mueller filed claims of physical abuse and threats, prompted police to take the nearly 2-year-old twins from Sheen's Hollywood Hills home on Tuesday night and return them to her care.

She told the court in a filing that the "Two and a Half Men" star had also refused to return the boys to her. The order, filed Tuesday and obtained by The Associated Press, requires Sheen to stay 100 yards away from Mueller and their twin sons, Max and Bob. According to a sworn declaration filed in the case, Mueller said Sheen told her in a phone call Sunday night, "I will cut your head off, put it in a box and send it to your mom!"

In addition to threatening to stab her in the eye with a pen knife, Mueller claims Sheen spit on her feet and punched her on the arm during a recent trip to the Bahamas. She also claims he knocked her unconscious in October 2009 after shoving her to the ground and causing her to hit her head on a couch.

The order and police action was the latest in a multi-day saga during which Sheen has given a series of bizarre interviews in his fight against "Men" producers. The top-rated comedy remains on hiatus and its future is in doubt. □

Keith Richard's daughter arrested for graffiti, drugs

NEW YORK — Theodora Richards, the daughter of Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards and former model Patti Hansen, has been arrested for spraying graffiti on a building and drug possession, police said.

Richards, 25, was taken into custody Tuesday night after plainclothes officers spotted her using an acrylic paint marker to spray the letters "T" and "A," with a heart symbol in between them, on the side of a building in New York's trendy Soho neighborhood, police said.

Richards also was charged with unlawfully having marijuana with her and possession of a controlled substance.

She remains in custody and is expected to be arraigned on Tuesday afternoon in a New York City court.

Richards, a model, has appeared in campaigns for fashion giants Tommy Hilfiger and Burberry. □



Theodora Richards

On Anti-Semitic Rant

John Galliano finally speaks out

FRANCE — For the first time since Christian Dior began proceedings to fire him over alleged anti-Semitic comments he made in French bar last week, John Galliano is speaking out. "I completely deny the claims made against me and have fully cooperated with the police investigation," Galliano, 50, said in a statement. The disgraced Dior designer went on to explain his remarks were made following an "unprovoked assault," by a patron in the restaurant. In France, it is a crime to make anti-Semitic comments, and Galliano could face up to six months in jail if convicted.

Despite maintaining his innocence, the designer, who's dressed stars like Nicole Kidman, Charlize Theron, and Cate Blanchett, didn't pass the buck entirely. "I must take responsibility for the circum-



John Galliano

stances in which I found myself," he said. "I must face up to my own failures and work hard to gain people's understanding and compassion. To start this process I am seeking help and all I can hope for in

time is to address the personal failure which led to these circumstances and try and earn people's forgiveness." He added, "Anti-Semitism and racism have no part in our society." After the February 25 incident, a British tabloid ran a video of Galliano yelling at two women, saying, "I love Hitler. People like you would be dead. Your mothers, your forefathers would all be gassed." Dior spokesperson Natalie Portman, who is Jewish, said she would have nothing to do with Galliano.

"I am deeply shocked and disgusted by the video of John Galliano's comments that surfaced," she said. "I hope at the very least, these terrible comments remind us to reflect and act upon combating these still-existing prejudices that are the opposite of all that is beautiful." □

Singer Aretha Franklin lost 85 pounds

DETROIT — Aretha Franklin says she's lost 85 pounds as part of an ongoing effort to drop weight.

The legendary singer said in a taped interview that aired on "The Wendy Williams Show" that she's been trying to shed pounds ever since looking at pictures of herself and deciding she was "entirely too fat." Williams interviewed Franklin on Friday at a Detroit-area hotel.

The 68-year-old Franklin underwent surgery for an undisclosed ailment in December and didn't go into detail about it during the interview with Williams. The "Queen of Soul" did say a re-



curing pain in her side last year was her "first inkling that something was not what it should be." The second part of the interview is to air on Thursday. □

Elton John, partner, to attend royal wedding



LONDON — Elton John and partner David Furnish are planning to attend the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton next month. The singer has told a Canadian TV talk show that they have received an invitation to the big event at Westminster Abbey on April 29.

John was a close friend of William's mother, Princess Diana, and sang his song "Candle In the Wind" at her funeral in 1997. Palace officials say invitations have been sent to approximately 1,900 guests but the names have not been released.

The coveted invitations are expected to go to family friends, members of other royal families, diplomats, charity workers and others. □

Predicts Pricey 'Two And A Half Men' return Donald Trump dubs Charlie Sheen 'a winner'

LOS ANGELES, Calif. Charlie Sheen recently said he's only addicted to "winning" and Donald Trump agrees.

Charlie is not doing so badly. I thought he'd be a total wreck," Donald told Billy Bush and Kit Hoover of the embattled star's status in an interview on Access Hollywood Live. "I think Charlie's doing not so bad. So far, Charlie's a winner!"

While he might be a "winner" in the eyes of the real estate mogul, would Charlie

be welcome to take a seat at Donald's famed conference table for "The Celebrity Apprentice"?

"I'd love to have Charlie on the show, but I'll be honest I think what's going to happen is Two and a Half Men is going to end up signing him for a lot more money than he was getting paid in the first place," Donald told Billy and Kit when asked if he would consider giving the actor a job on his hit NBC reality show. "It's all about ratings in this crazy business, and if you have ratings, you can be the worst person on earth and they're going to sign you. I think Charlie will do very well."

One option for solving the highly publicized standoff between "Two and a Half Men"



Donald Trump

producers and Charlie would be to continue the sitcom without the 45-year-old actor an idea The Donald denounced.

"I think it's very risky to continue 'Men' without Charlie and I think with Charlie they'll do probably better than they ever did before," Donald told Billy and Kit. "I would say that probably Charlie will be a big star for a long time to come. I get a great kick out of him. I think he's doing just fine." The fourth season of Donald's "The Celebrity Apprentice" premieres on Sunday, and though Charlie will not be a part of it, Donald said there would be no shortage of drama. "You have to see the fight between Star Jones and Nene Leakes of the 'Housewives of Atlanta,'" Donald

told Billy and Kit. "And also, [a fight between] Meatloaf and Gary Busey. Gary Busey's a real beauty. I call him the mad genius. He's crazy, but he's a really smart guy in a certain way."

When asked why The Donald seems to gravitate towards characters like Charlie Sheen and Gary Busey, he said their unorthodox antics bring spice to his everyday "straight" life. "I have a life that's very staid I deal with banks, I deal with nice, straight people. When I see people that are different especially if they're smart—I get a kick out of it," Donald said. "I like to see it. To me it's entertaining and I like to be entertained. Gary Busey's fantastic, Charlie Sheen is fantastic. These are great people."

At Vienna ball

Ruby to put aside Berlusconi uproar



VIENNA – The dancer in the eye of a political storm around Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said she hopes to put the scandal aside and enjoy her appearance as a star guest at Vienna's famous Opera Ball.

Karima el Mahroug, an 18-year-old dancer known by her stage name Ruby Rubacuori will be on the arm of 78-year-old Vienna construction magnate and social lion Richard Lugner at the ball on Thursday night.

Ruby has become a focus of an investigation into Berlusconi, who has been ordered to stand trial in April on charges of paying an underage girl for sex and abusing his position to get her out of police custody.

"I hope that people will be able to react to me as they find me and not as 'scandal' Ruby," she told a packed news conference, constantly sweeping back her long brown hair from her face.

"I can only belly-dance, I can't waltz but I will try and dance with the others you can learn a lot that way," she said.

Dressed in a black silk skirt and furry jacket which she later shed to reveal a low-cut white top, Ruby appeared confident and ready to tackle questions about Berlusconi and her past, saying she had not done anything wrong.

Jackson doc ordered before judge delayed



Dr. Conrad Murray

LOS ANGELES – The doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death is due in court as a judge considers delaying the physician's upcoming trial.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor has ordered Dr. Conrad Murray to appear at the hearing.

During two previous sessions, Pastor grilled Murray's defense attorneys about why they haven't turned more information over to prosecutors. Pastor says he was "extremely distressed" by the lack of disclosure by Murray's attorneys.

But he has also requested case law that will support the prosecution's request to delay the trial, scheduled to begin March 24. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter and is seeking a speedy trial. □

Michael Jackson 'chemically castrated' as child

MARSEILLE – Michael Jackson may have been more prince than king of pop, a French doctor says in a new book alleging his wide-ranging voice resulted from a childhood chemical castration to fight acne.

"When he died, I realized that he was an unusual phenomenon," Alain Branchereau, an opera buff and professor of vascular surgery at Timone University Hospital in France's Mediterranean port of Marseille, told the press.

"I said, 'That's the voice of a castrato!'"

After discussing the voice with his colleagues, including endocrinologists, Branchereau ended up with the theory of chemical castration through the synthetic anti-male hormone drug Cyproterone. "When he was 12, Michael Jackson had acne. We know this, he spoke about it himself as a tragedy. What I think could have happened is that his people suggested this miracle treatment," the doctor said.

Cyproterone "blocks puberty, the voice can't mature," he said, adding that he had read around 20 books on the subject, studied pho-



Michael Jackson

tographs and spoken to specialists in dermatology, voice physiology, plastic surgery, urology as well as to a former singer with the Petits Chanteurs de Sainte-Croix boys choir.

The drug stops bodily hair and the larynx from growing and affects the bones, leaving the body with a slight frame but a large chest. Once the treatment is finished, the patient "keeps a child's larynx all his life in a man's body," said Branchereau. □



Smoking during early pregnancy may put baby's heart at risk

WASHINGTON - Babies born to women who smoke in the first trimester of pregnancy are more likely to have a congenital heart defect than are the offspring of mothers who don't smoke, a new study shows.

The increased risk ranged from 20 percent to 70 percent, varying by the type of defect. Detected heart defects included those that obstruct the flow of blood from the right side of the heart into the lungs, called right ventricular outflow tract obstructions, and openings between the upper chambers of the heart, known as atrial septal defects.

For the study, published Feb. 28 in *Pediatrics*, research-



ers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed data on 2,525 infants with congenital heart defects and 3,435 healthy infants born in Baltimore and

Washington, D.C., from 1981 to 1989.

The findings of this and other studies suggest that eliminating smoking before or very early in pregnancy could pre-

vent as many as 100 cases of right ventricular outflow tract obstructions and 700 cases of atrial septal defects each year in the United States, according to the CDC. For atrial septal defects alone, the agency said, that could save as much as \$16 million a year in hospital costs.

"Women who smoke and are thinking about becoming pregnant need to quit smoking and, if they're already pregnant, they need to stop," CDC Director Dr. Thomas R. Frieden said in an agency news release. "Quitting is the single most important thing a woman can do to improve her health as well as the health of her baby."

Dr. Adolfo Correa, medical officer in the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, said that "successfully stopping smoking during pregnancy also lowers the chances of pregnancy complications such as preterm delivery and that an infant will have other complications such as low birth weight."

Congenital heart defects, which impair heart function and can increase the risk of death or long-term disability, affect nearly 40,000 U.S. infants each year and contribute to about 30 percent of infant deaths caused by birth defects. Each year in the United States, about 2,500 infants are born with right ventricular outflow tract obstructions and about 5,600 are born with atrial septal defects. In 2004, estimated U.S. hospital costs for all congenital heart defects totaled \$1.4 billion, according to the CDC. □

Being too fat raises risk of deadly breast cancer

CHICAGO - Doctors know that being overweight increases the risk of breast cancers fed by estrogen, but being too fat may also increase the risk of triple-negative breast cancers, a less common and far more deadly type, U.S. researchers said on Tuesday.

They said women who are overweight had a 35 percent higher risk of developing triple-negative breast cancers, an aggressive form of cancer that affects 10 to 20 percent of cases.

"The fact that we found an association with triple-negative breast cancer is unique because, biologically, this subtype is very different from other breast cancers," said Amanda Phipps of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, whose study appears in the journal *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*.

Breast cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death among U.S. women, after lung cancer. It kills 500,000 people globally every year and is diagnosed in close to 1.3 million people globally.

Most breast tumors are called estrogen-receptor positive because they are fueled by the hormone estrogen. About 20 percent are HER2-positive, because a protein called HER2 is involved. A third type is driven by the hormone progesterone. These types of cancer



can easily be treated. Then there are triple-negative tumors, so named because they lack estrogen, progesterone or HER2 receptors needed for most breast cancer drugs to work. Studies have found that women who put on a

lot of weight, they increase their risk of breast cancer, likely because estrogen accumulates in the fat and promotes tumors. For her study, Phipps and colleagues analyzed data from the 155,723 women enrolled in a large study of the effects of hormone replacement therapy on menopausal women. The team studied body mass index or BMI and physical activity among the 307 women in the study who had triple negative breast cancer and the 2,610 women who had estrogen receptor-positive breast cancers.

BMI is equal to weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. A person 5 feet 5 inches tall is classified as overweight at 150 pounds (68 kg) and obese at 180 pounds (82 kg).

Phipps and colleagues found women with the highest BMI in the study had a 35 percent higher risk of triple-negative breast cancers, and a 39 percent higher risk of estrogen-fed breast cancers. The study raises new questions about what besides estrogen drives tumors, suggesting a possible role for other growth factors or inflammation, Amy Trentham-Dietz of the University of Wisconsin said in a statement.

Phipps said the effect was modest, but if confirmed by other teams, the study offers women new ways to reduce their risk of triple-negative breast cancers. □

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ONU: Corrupción obstruye lucha antidrogas en América Latina

VIENA (AP) - La corrupción es un obstáculo para la lucha contra el tráfico de drogas ilegales en México, mientras que Centroamérica y el Caribe siguen siendo rutas importantes de tránsito de narcóticos y Estados Unidos es el principal destino de los estupefacientes, de acuerdo con un reporte publicado el miércoles por un organismo de la ONU.

Las fuertes ganancias obtenidas por el tráfico de drogas ilegales permite a los grupos criminales establecer redes de corrupción a gran escala que incluyen el pago de sobornos a policías para que les permitan operar con mayor libertad, dijo la Junta Internacional de Fiscalización de Estupefacientes (JIFE) en su informe correspondiente a 2010.

Estas acciones pueden afectar la credibilidad y eficiencia del sistema judicial de un país y debilitar el estado de derecho, al tiempo que pueden socavar la cooperación internacional para el combate a las drogas, agregó el órgano encargado de vigilar la aplicación de tratados internacionales de fiscalización de drogas.

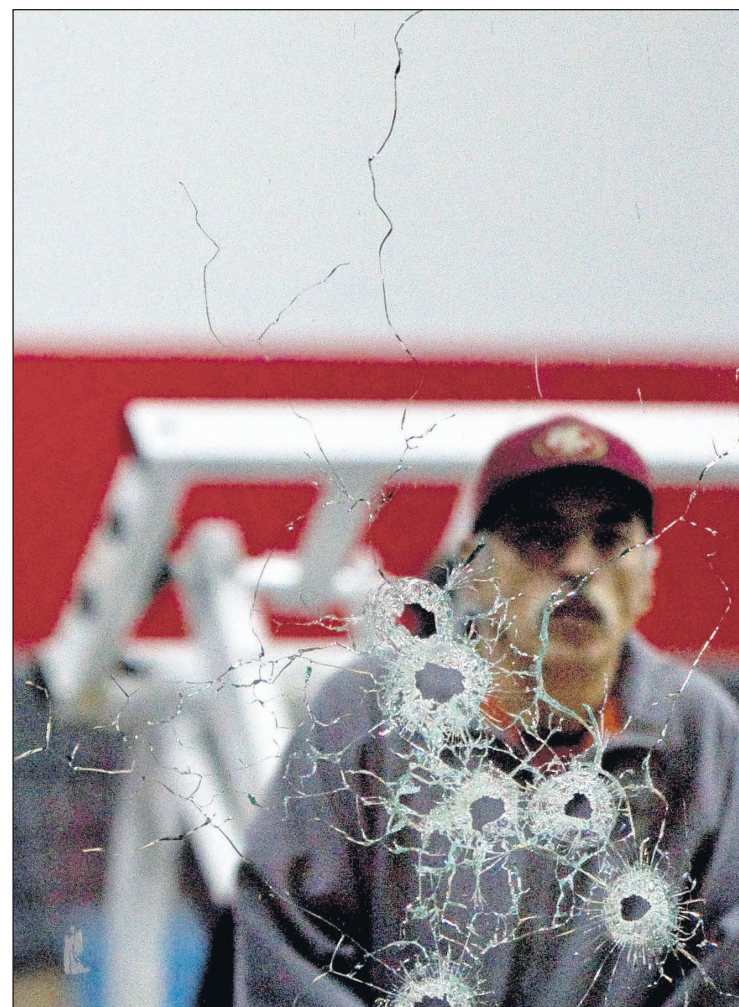
El reporte anual de la JIFE dijo que Estados Unidos registró un aumento en el abuso de todas las drogas, excepto cocaína, en 2009. También dijo que hay un incremento en la distribución ilegal de fármacos de prescripción.

En algunos países sudamericanos, agrega, el apoyo financiero para combatir problemas relacionados con las drogas es insuficiente. Los gobiernos de Bolivia y Perú

deben tomar medidas para reducir las zonas de cultivo de coca y combatir la producción y tráfico de cocaína, dijo. Asimismo, la JIFE señala que el abuso de cocaína parece estar creciendo en Argentina, Brasil, Chile y Uruguay. Aunque Colombia continúa siendo la principal fuente de cocaína detectada en Europa, Perú está tomando un papel cada vez más importante.

La agencia recomendó también a los gobiernos intensificar sus esfuerzos a fin de prohibir las drogas sintéticas (o de diseño) mediante una estrecha vigilancia sobre la tendencia al abuso y declarando ilegales esas drogas lo más pronto posible.

De acuerdo con el reporte, las drogas de diseño se elaboran por lo general alterando la estructura molecular de sustancias ilegales con el fin de crear un nuevo producto con un efecto semejante. □



La imagen de un hombre se refleja en una ventana con orificios de bala de un gimnasio en Tijuana, México, el lunes 28 de febrero de 2011. La Policía dijo que un hombre fue asesinado por pistoleros, que posiblemente estaban relacionados con el narcotráfico. (Foto AP/Guillermo Arias)

Segundo funcionario boricua da positivo por drogas

SAN JUAN (AP) - Un segundo funcionario de la Cámara de Representantes de Puerto Rico dio positivo por drogas luego de ser sorprendido por los exámenes.

El alguacil de la legislatura José Aníbal Meléndez dijo que va a renunciar a su cargo luego de dar positivo a la prueba. Meléndez no dijo de qué droga se trataba, pero su padre dijo el miércoles a la radioemisora Noti Uno que su hijo había fumado marihuana durante las festividades navideñas.

El anuncio se produjo apenas días después que el representante Rolando Crespo renunciase a su curul tras dar positivo por cocaína en un examen. La presidenta de la cámara baja Jenniffer González había ordenado que todos los oficiales y miembros de la cámara se sometiesen a un examen de drogas en enero.

Crespo arrojó positivo por cocaína en una prueba de dopaje de cabello a la que fueron sometidos los legisladores por solicitud de González. En una muestra anterior de orina Crespo había dado negativo.

Con estudios universitarios de justicia criminal y maestría en psicología escolar, Crespo resultó electo por primera vez en el 2004 como representante por acumulación y se reeligió en el 2008. Presidía la comisión de Reglas y Calendario. □

Aumentan casas arrasadas por derrumbe en La Paz

LA PAZ (AP) - Un enorme cerro que rodea a La Paz continúa agrietándose desde el fin de semana y hasta el miércoles arrasó con nueve barrios pobres y más de 400 casas de la zona este de la ciudad, informó una autoridad municipal.

Se trata de la mayor tragedia derivada del movimiento de suelos por efecto de las lluvias, pero no hubo víctimas fatales, dijo el director de Comunicación de la alcaldía paceña, Edwin Herrera.

El deslizamiento dejó sin agua potable a más de 100.000 personas del barrio más residencial de La Paz y las autoridades anticiparon que cambiar una tubería matriz dañada y reponer el servicio llevará semanas. Camiones cisterna abastecen a los vecinos.

Herrera dijo que suman 6.000 las personas afectadas por el derrumbe y se desconoce el costo de las pérdidas. Gran parte de los barrios de La Paz están contruidos en pendien-

tes inestables de cerros que rodean la ciudad. Calles y casas de la zona afectada comenzaron a agrietarse el sábado en la noche. El cerro se desmoronó la madrugada del domingo y la falla geológica siguió agrietando los suelos. Todavía el miércoles los vecinos intentaban rescatar de los escombros algunos enseres. Centenares de personas fueron acogidas en albergues temporales ubicados en escuelas y campos deportivos aledaños.

Entre los predios afectados está un cementerio que se derrumbó. El miércoles algunos vecinos buscaban entre el barro los restos de sus familiares.

Las lluvias que se intensificaron en febrero activaron la falla geológica en esta ciudad y han provocado además inundaciones y riadas en varias regiones del país que hasta ahora cobraron la vida de 46 personas y dejaron 14.000 familias afectadas, según el último balance de Defensa Civil. □

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